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Issue No 132  
Available from Wednesday,  
April 7, 2010



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# ALL CHANGE AS ELECTION FEVER BITES

SHEPWAY is in the grip of election fever as the country prepares to go to the polls and with a new MP set to represent our constituency.

Prime Minister Gordon Brown yesterday (Tuesday) asked the Queen to dissolve Parliament, triggering the countdown to one of the most keenly-anticipated elections in decades.

And for the first time in 27 years, the Folkestone and Hythe seat will have a new occupant as one-time Home Secretary and former Tory leader Michael Howard steps down.

The area has also been enlarged,

BY JAMES ALEXANDRE

### ELECTION 2010

taking in the Ashford electoral ward of Saxon Shore due to population shifts.

Damian Collins is the Conservative candidate taking on the mantle from Mr Howard. His main challengers, Liberal Democrat Lynne Beaumont and Labour's Donald Worsley, will need to overturn an 11,000 majority.

Frank McKenna is standing for the UK Independence Party, while the far-right British National Party is also expected to field a candidate.

Whichever way the result goes,

there will be a fresh face representing Shepway in Westminster come May 7.

The seat has become a Tory stronghold, with Mr Howard increasing his majority at the 2005 election and earning more than half of the vote, a total of 53.9 per cent.

His closest rival then, LibDem Peter Carroll, gained a near-30 per cent share and is the husband of the party's candidate this year.

Town and district councillor Ms Beaumont was chosen in January after previous LibDem candidate Neil Matthews stepped down for personal reasons. She has been heavily involved in the Gurkha Justice

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



Picture DAVID ROLFE

## HIDDEN AGENDA

Lions at Port Lympne Wild Animal Park were shrouded from public view last week to raise awareness about declining numbers.

Big-cat species have fallen by up to 90 per cent in some parts of the world during the last 50 years, according to the Lion Aid charity which enlisted the help of the park for its campaign.

The lions were unveiled for only an hour during the day to represent the remaining ten per cent. This was accompanied by the symbolic covering of one of the four lion statues in London's Trafalgar Square.

The implication is that if we lose lions in Africa by not paying attention, we then lose the right to use their images and representations at home.

To find out more about the campaign, you can go to [www.lionaid.org](http://www.lionaid.org).

ISSN 1753-113-6



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**EDITOR:** Dave Mairs 01303 817022  
**GROUP EDITOR:** Gary Wright 01303 817032  
**WEBSITE:** www.yourdover.co.uk  
**TELEPHONE ADVERTISING:** 01303 817110  
**FAX:** (Advertising) 01303 817002  
**EMAIL:** Editorial: yourdover@kosmedia.co.uk. Sales: advertising@kosmedia.co.uk  
**HEAD OFFICE ADDRESS:** Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR  
 Printed by Archant Print  
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# The growing problem of missing class

■ BY JAMES ALEXANDRE

**SCHOOL** absenteeism rates in Shepway have revealed that more than 500 pupils regularly take days off class, either with or without permission.

Secondary schools in the district were near the top of the table, with 6.2 per cent of the 4,360 students registered as persistently absent, joint second with Swale and behind only Canterbury in the county.

### Persistent

The figures were better at primary level, with only 1.6 per cent, or 107 pupils, leaving school during term time out of a total of 6,740.

In total, the results for all schools, which include all grant-maintained primary and secondary schools, special schools, city technology colleges and academies, had a persistent absentee rate of 4.2 per cent, or about 548 pupils out of 13,060.

The latest figures, for the year to July 2009, come as it was revealed that truancy in England had risen by its highest-ever level.

However, Schools Minister Vernon Coaker said that overall absence had fallen to a record low.

"Schools are, quite rightly, cracking down on absence," he said.

"Weak excuses for missing school, such as oversleeping or a day's holiday, are no longer accepted – so it's no surprise that with this tougher approach there is a slight rise in unauthorised absence.

"Persistent absentees account for just under a fifth of all absences – so it's right that heads now target them relentlessly and that num-

bers of the highest absentees are being cut.

"Ultimately it is down to parents – not schools. Parents have a clear duty to ensure that their child is in school and are not simply allowing them to miss their education."

He said the Government was putting into place new legislation on Home School Agreements so parents understood what their child's school expected.

Head-teachers and local authorities also had the powers they needed to deal with parents who ignored their responsibilities through fines, parenting orders and parenting contracts, Mr Coaker said.

One Folkestone school said it had tackled the truancy problem by employing dedicated staff members to liaise with families.

### Engaged

A spokesman for Pent Valley Technology College said: "We decided this role was so important we now employ five members of staff, one for each of our mini schools, which in part has led to our excellent attendance record.

"The strength of this role is that this member of staff only ever works with their particular mini school and so their group of families. This enables them to really get to know the students and their parents or carers.

"Finally, we also believe that ensuring our students are happy, feel safe and are engaged with school impacts positively on their attendance."

## Leas Lift to be open in time for summer

THE Leas Lift is to be fully restored and reopened after being handed over to contractors this week.

The 125-year-old water-balance lift was scheduled to be transferred yesterday morning (Tuesday), when the refurbishment was due to begin.

Once ready, the lift will be operated by a third party this summer.

It has not been running since the end of June last year, when Shepway council decided not to renew its lease with the Radnor Estate due to increasing maintenance costs.

Liberal Democrat Parliamentary candidate and council group leader Lynne Beaumont said: "I am thrilled that the Earl of Radnor has taken this important decision to restore the lift, which is the vital link between the Leas and the seafont as well as being a national treasure."

## Wildlife art goes on show at animal park

A WILDLIFE art exhibition is being held at Port Lympne this week, with a third of the proceeds going towards conservation work.

The art has been put on display in the education marquee, opened by comedian and local celebrity Vic Reeves, a keen artist who is also displaying some of his own pieces.

The event has been organised by award-winning wildlife photographer Vic Sharratt, chairman of The Wildlife Art Society International.

From each piece sold, 30 per cent will be donated to the Aspinall Foundation, which runs the park.

The exhibition finishes on Sunday.

## Enchanting music to boost church fund

AN EVENING of enchanted music featuring Baroque masterpieces is to be held in aid of raising funds for a centuries-old Lympne church.

Floriane Peycelon will be leading the concert at St Stephen's Church.

The programme includes music by Bach (the Brandenburg), Handel, Telemann, Corelli and Sammartini.

There will be wine, and admission is free although donations are welcome.

The evening starts on Saturday, April 17, at 7.30pm and will be in aid of the St Stephen's Church Refurbishment Project.

## Tourism training for district taxi-drivers

TAXI-drivers in Shepway have been boosting their knowledge of the district's attractions so they can be better ambassadors for the area.

The cabbies attended a training day organised by Visit Kent at the Hythe Imperial Hotel.

The day of workshops included talks by Thomas Marsh, a Beacon coordinator for the Kent Sport, Leisure and Olympics team; Jeremy Whitaker, regeneration and economic development manager at Shepway council; Chris Kirkham, manager of Discover Folkestone; and Amanda Oates, arts development officer at Shepway council.

The event was organised by Kerstin Beeching, training manager at Visit Kent, who said: "Taxi-drivers are often the first people visitors to Shepway meet.

"They are regularly asked about what is happening in the area and



**OUR AMBASSADORS:** The cabbies join tourism representatives in Hythe for a day of training

the best places to visit. They are our front-line ambassadors.

"Taxi-drivers are busy people, so we decided to hold a day-long training event with as much useful information as possible.

"We were determined to include not only what visitors can see and do

in Shepway today but also all the plans to regenerate the area."

For more information about Visit Kent training courses and business support for people working in the tourism, leisure and hospitality sector, you can visit the website at [www.visitkentbusiness.co.uk](http://www.visitkentbusiness.co.uk)

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# Head in sheep uproar returns to her school

A PRIMARY school head-teacher who had been hounded out of her job over the slaughter of the school lamb has been reinstated by public demand.

Andrea Charman, who resigned from Lydd primary school in February, will be welcomed back by parents and pupils in the new term after the Easter holidays.

It had been claimed that she was the victim of a vicious online campaign after allowing the wether lamb, called Marcus, to be sent to the abattoir.

Some of the children had apparently grown fond of Marcus and were left distraught by what happened to him.

The school said each class had an opportunity to discuss what would happen to the lamb, but the issue generated a worldwide media frenzy and divided opinion over whether the youngsters should have been faced with such a decision.

In a message on social-networking site Facebook, Ms Charman's daughter Ruth announced the news and quoted the words of German-French philosopher Albert Schweitzer.

"My Mum doesn't have Facebook so asked me to post this on her behalf:

'I was looking for a message to express my thanks and found this: 'At times our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person. Each of us

■ BY JAMES ALEXANDRE

has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lit the flame within us.'

'I was fortunate enough to have my flame relit by sparks from many others and I thank you.'

Parents and supporters also left messages, saying it was fantastic news and that common sense had prevailed.

Kent County Council cabinet member for education Sarah Hohler said: "I am very pleased that Andrea Charman is returning to Lydd primary school.

"The community has spoken and made their feelings known loud and clear. There is overwhelming support for her.

"Under her guidance the school made tremendous progress and I know she will relish the opportunity to continue that work and do her best for the children and staff."

In the wake of the furore in September last year, an online petition calling for the removal of Ms Charman attracted more than 2,500 signatures, while a Facebook group originally set up to save Marcus has almost 1,500 members.

Comedian and TV host Paul O'Grady even offered to give the lamb a home at his farm in Aldington and keep students updated on his well-being.

Outgoing Shepway MP Michael Howard said at the time of Ms Charman's resignation that the "relentlessness" of the campaign had led to the loss of a great head-teacher.



RESCUE EFFORT: Comedian Paul O'Grady offered to give Marcus a home

## Snap up a piece of soccer history

FOOTBALL fans in Folkestone can buy a piece of history while raising money for a good cause.

A football memorabilia fair has so far raised more than £400 on behalf of the Bobby Moore Fund.

Organiser Simon Randall, of Maidstone, has visited clubs around the county and is now returning to Folkestone Invicta's Buzzlines Stadium in Cheriton Road to add to the fund in memory of the 1966 World Cup-winning captain.

His death in 1993 at the age of 51 to bowel cancer led his widow Stephanie to set up the fund as part of Cancer Research UK and has raised more than £12 million and funded 36 projects across the UK.

The memorabilia fair takes place in the club's Stripes Bar on Sunday, April 11, from 11am-2pm. Entrance is 50p for adults and free for children and there will also be a raffle on the day.

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The Afford Art exhibition opens in Folkestone. Search 'Afford'

## Candidates bid for your vote

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Campaign, fronted by actress Joanna Lumley, and visited Nepal last year.

She is also opposed to the development of Lydd airport and in favour of promoting green tourism on Romney Marsh.

Conservative Mr Collins is founding chairman of the Folkestone-based Step Short project, which is working to restore the town's Road of Remembrance in recognition of its role during the First World War.

Troops used to go through the port of Folkestone and the project hopes to recognise this in time for the centenary of the war's outbreak.

He is also chairman of The Shed management committee, the centre supported by the Folkestone Youth Project which includes youth clubs, activities and the skate park.

Mr Collins is in favour of Lydd airport's controversial expansion plans and supportive of a new nuclear reactor at Dungeness.

The extension of Folkestone and Hythe's parliamentary boundary ends the 'coterminous' relationship with Shepway borough.

Saxon Shore ward includes Aldington, Bilsington, Bonnington, Brabourne, Brook, Hastingsleigh, Ruckinge and Smeeth.

Voters in this area will still be represented at local government level by Ashford council.

## Special constable's dedication praised

A VOLUNTEER police officer who gives up his own time to serve as a Special Sergeant in Shepway has been praised by the area's police chief.

Robert Creron has been awarded the Special Constable of the Year accolade in recognition of his outstanding contribution.

He often works with police officers as a member of the Folkestone district Special Constabulary.

He works closely with neighbourhood officers and PCSOs in the Cheriton area and has built a good rapport with residents, who now see him as one of their local officers.

He was presented his award at Folkestone police station.

Several officers from the Special Constabulary were also presented with long-service medals, including Special Inspector Zahid Hadi, who has served in the Shepway district for more than 18 years.

Presenting the award, Acting Superintendent Martin Bradley said: "The Special Constabulary is an important part of the policing family and plays a crucial role in keeping the area safe.

"Special Sergeant Creron is a fully committed and competent officer. He is a valued member of the



FINE ACCOLADE: Special Sgt Robert Creron with Acting Superintendent Martin Bradley

Shepway Special Constabulary team and is respected by the community he serves. He is a credit to South Kent Special Constabulary."

South Kent has 38 volunteers in its Special Constabulary. Men and women aged 18-50 who are in good health, can volunteer about 16 hours a month and are able to attend regular training are eligible to become Special Constables.

Good communication skills, such as writing up concise reports and being able to express yourself clearly, are important.

For information about joining the Special Constabulary, phone PC Jim Empett on 01233 896187 or visit [www.kent.police.uk](http://www.kent.police.uk).



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# Recreating the Dunkirk spirit

The tunnels beneath Dover Castle housed the operations centre for the audacious bid to bring stranded Allied troops back from the beaches of Dunkirk in 1940. To mark the 70th anniversary of Operation Dynamo, a re-enactment of the historic event is being held at the castle next month.

**NICK AMES** joined rehearsals and discovered how the retreat was still a victory for some of Britain's bravest.

THIS year sees the 70th anniversary of the historic World War Two evacuation of the beaches of Dunkirk when thousands of Allied soldiers were plucked from under the Nazi Germans' guns and shells by an armada of warships, merchant vessels and pleasure craft.

Operation Dynamo, as the evacuation was known, was overseen from underneath Dover Castle. To mark the anniversary the labyrinth of tunnels under the castle will be open to the public as part of a series of events at the castle between May 28 to June 4.

Vice Admiral Bertram Ramsay, who was given less than a week to prepare the British escape from northern France, oversaw the operation.

From his headquarters in the tunnels he directed and inspired a small staff, which had the awesome task of planning the evacuation of British and French troops while under constant attack from German forces.

## Shelling

By May 26, 1940 Ramsay had assembled 15 passenger ferries at Dover and a further 20 at Southampton.

These it was hoped would be able to embark troops direct from the quays at Dunkirk.

But minefields and shelling from German batteries on the French coast forced evacuation convoys to take longer routes to Dunkirk.

The first convoy, after sustaining heavy air attacks, found the port of Dunkirk with its oil tanks ablaze and only the passenger ferries Royal Daffodil and later the Canterbury succeeded in berthing.

By the end of the first day just 7,500 troops had been rescued and it was clearly impossible to use the port.

Officers on the beaches signalled for the rescue ships to be diverted to the east of the town.



**BIG PLAN:** Prime Minister Winston Churchill with Vice Admiral Bertram Ramsay, who planned the Allied escape

Ramsay knew he needed more seacraft to rescue the troops who were driven back to the Channel by Nazi forces and a plan was quickly drawn up.

In London the Admiralty's Small Vessels Pool had been collecting all available seaworthy pleasure craft.

With volunteer crews, many of whom had never sailed out of sight of land before, they were checked at Sheerness Dockyard and then sent to Ramsgate to await final sailing orders.

There the small boats were joined by a mixture of lifeboats, trawlers, Thames sailing barges and tugs.

The first convoy of little ships set sail from Ramsgate at 10pm on May 29 and by the next day they were streaming across the Channel in seemingly unending lines.

The dangers were great; ships, both large and small, were targets for German fighters, bombers, submarines and coastal batteries plus the random danger of mines which made the crossing unimaginably hazardous.

But the seas remained abnormally calm.

Many smaller craft headed for the beaches acting as tenders, ferrying men from the beaches to larger vessels anchored offshore.

Some of the larger trawlers and drifters loaded troops directly in Dunkirk Harbour.

On the evening of June 2, with the German forces closing in, Ramsay despatched another flotilla of ships, including 13 passenger ships, 14 minesweepers and 11 destroyers.

Only one more night of evacuation was possible. On the night of June 3 a final effort was made using British, French, Belgian and Dutch ships to bring out as many of the French rearguard as possible and more than 26,000 men were saved from the advancing German troops.

About 338,000 troops were rescued from Dunkirk, and almost 200,000 soldiers passed through Dover, Folkestone and Ashford.

During the nine-day operation the Southern Railway laid on a total of 327 special trains, which cleared 180,982 troops from Dover.

A total of 4,500 casualties were treated at the town's Buckland Hospital and all but 50 of these seriously ill men were saved.

During the week of commemorations the castle will be manned by re-enactors in wartime uniforms and costumes, a memorial service will be held, guns will fire in salute and a wreath will be laid.

• To see a video a tour of the tunnels go to [www.yourkenttv.co.uk](http://www.yourkenttv.co.uk).



**MISSION IMPOSSIBLE:** Operations staff at Dover castle had the daunting task of saving thousands of under-fire Allied troops



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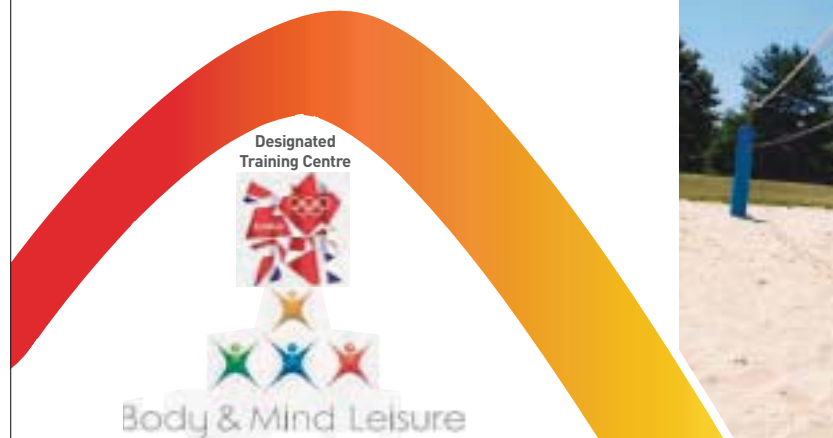
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### 3. EMILY BOND T-COSY

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### 6. CAROL RIDLER

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Lucy Tom based in Cirencester Wiltshire, started as a home curtain/blind making business, but with so many offcuts this dynamic entrepreneur has created a new doorstop business. Using quirky and original designs, now famous for their chickens and scotty dogs.

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# Five of the very best

■ BY MARIJKE COX

FIVE of the UK's top police officers have been selected as potential candidates for the position of Kent's new Chief Constable.

The hopefuls were chosen from a list of eight applicants by the Kent Police Authority's appointments panel and will now face an intense two-day interview before a final decision in May.

Ann Barnes, chair of the authority, said the selection process for the £150,000-a-year job was "extremely difficult" but believes these candidates have what it takes to fill the role, which was left open following Mike Fuller's move to be HM Chief Inspector of the Crown Prosecution Service last month.

Mrs Barnes said the standard of applicants was outstanding, making the task of drawing up the shortlist difficult.

She said: "We had a high number of applicants. Kent is a popular force and this county is like no other when it comes to policing."

Mrs Barnes said the mix of urban and rural communities created real challenges for Kent Police and the Chief Constable.

"This combination means different sorts of policing are needed," she said. "We've also got millions of people coming through the county because of the port and the Channel Tunnel, which can bring so much misery through organised crime."

"Kent is one of the hardest counties to police, so it's vital we choose the right person."

Mrs Barnes said the prospective Chief Constable will be faced with a number of chal-



**COP A LOOK:** From left - Giles York, Simon Ash, Simon Cole, Alfred Hitchcock, and Ian Learmonth (who is not pictured) make up the shortlist of candidates for the position of Kent Chief Constable

lenges, including financial cuts, with a potential loss of £20 million from the budget during the next few years. But she said the calibre of the applicants filled her with confidence.

"The candidates really understand the challenges of policing this county," she said.

Deputy Chief Constable Adrian Leppard will take on the job temporarily until the position is filled at the beginning of August.

Mr Leppard had been expected to apply for the role permanently after Kent Police Authority said it would seek an exemption to rules which state a senior officer who has been deputy and assistant chief constable is unable to apply for the top job at the same force.

But Mrs Barnes confirmed Mr Leppard, who missed out on the Chief Constable position at Norfolk in January, did not apply. However, he said he was delighted to be appointed the role of temporary Chief Constable.

"There are exciting and challenging opportunities ahead, including our ongoing commitment to listen to the people of Kent and Medway and deal with the issues that really matter to them," he said.

THE chair of the Kent Police Authority has admitted she was disappointed that only one woman applied for the job of Chief Constable.

Ann Barnes, pictured right, said it showed the force was still a male-dominated profession and confessed she had hoped more female officers would have applied.

"Only one woman went for the job and she didn't make the shortlist," she said. "I was disappointed there were not more female candidates. Unfortunately there are very few women in senior positions. There has never been a female chief constable at Kent Police."

Mrs Barnes said she has been working towards improving the progression of women within the force. In 2006, a gender strategy group was set up to address the matter.

But Mrs Barnes admitted that to go for the chief constable job, the candidate would have to have completed a Senior Command Course, which is only available for officers at chief superintendent level, of which there is only one woman in Kent Police. Currently, there are 1,036 female officers - with the highest-ranking officer being Detective Chief Superintendent Debbie Doe.

Mrs Barnes said: "Women can reach these levels, but progression is tough."

"The situation is improving. We now have more women going through the promotion barriers so we are cracking the obstacles."

"We've taken positive action to change the situation and I think it is working."

Before leaving his position as chief constable, Mike Fuller said a modern, responsive police service needs a range of opinions and experience that only a balanced workforce can provide.

"Since 1978, we have increased the number of female officers by more than 350 per cent," he said. "Women work across a variety of roles in the force, such as forensics, emergency response, firearms and investigation."



## THE SHORTLIST

- Giles York, 43, is Deputy Chief Constable of Sussex Police. He started his career in Kent in 1990 and has served as area commander of Medway, and head of Special Branch at Kent Police.
- Ian Learmonth, 52, is Deputy Chief Constable of Norfolk Police. He has been a police officer since 1976 and served at two other UK police forces before joining Norfolk.
- Simon Ash, 49, is Chief Constable of Suffolk Police. He began his career at Kent Police in 1982.
- Simon Cole, 43, is Deputy Chief Constable for Hampshire Police. He joined Hampshire in 2003 as Assistant Chief Constable having served in West Midlands Police since 1988.
- Alfred Hitchcock, 51, from Lancashire, is Deputy Chief Constable and head of the National College of Police Leadership and National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA). He has more than 30 years' experience in policing.



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# yourlocalinterview

## QUESTION & ANSWER

### ED WALDEN



**Q** Tell us a little about yourself

**A** I was brought up in South Wales, and left school at 16. I joined the Royal Navy, serving for seven years. I subsequently joined British Transport Police (BTP) and now have 16 years of service with the force under my belt. I've also been an officer with Gwent Police as well as the New Zealand Police.

I have been married for five years and my wife and I moved to Kent after I was promoted to Inspector in December 2008 and relocated to Ashford.

**Q** Tell us a little bit about British Transport Police.

**A** Including myself there are 25 police officers and four detectives based at Ashford BTP station and we police 110 railway stations throughout Kent. Crime at the stations we police is down some eight per cent on last year – not only are offences down, but we are actually making more arrests and solving more of those crimes that do occur. The figures show the railway is a very safe environment and the chances of becoming a victim of crime are very low.

**Q** How did you come to work for BTP?

**A** I became interested in the police service while serving in the Royal Navy in 1993. BTP held a recruitment seminar in Plymouth,

where I was based and I realised it was a career that would give me some really good prospects, where I could use the skills I'd gained in the Royal Navy. Six months later, I joined as a police officer.

**Q** What's the difference between you and Home Office police forces?

**A** BTP is the national police force for the railways, providing a police service to passengers, rail operators and their staff throughout England, Scotland and Wales. We have 2,835 police officers and 1,455 support staff and work closely with our colleagues from Home Office forces and the train operating companies, including Southeastern.

**Q** Do you have different training?

**A** We undergo the same thorough training as the Home Office forces to ensure that we are fully-trained in upholding the law. However, working for BTP also requires good knowledge of the rail network and the unique issues that come with policing it.

**Q** What's the best bit of your job?

**A** I enjoy being able to do something that directly improves life for Kent's rail commuters. Increasing passenger safety and seeing dangerous people being taken off the streets is what it's all about for us.

**Q** What's the worst?

**A** The most difficult part of the job is dealing with the death on the railway. It's a particularly hard and a traumatic experience for everyone involved, having to inform a family after the death of a loved one.

**Q** How would someone go about becoming a BTP officer?

**A** I would advise anyone thinking about becoming a police officer to consider the BTP. There is scope to work nationally and in many specialist areas. Visit our recruitment website at [www.btprecruitment.com](http://www.btprecruitment.com).

**Q** What do you do in your spare time?

**A** I enjoy travelling a lot, getting outdoors and camping. I also like to cook – I think it's an important skill to have and I take a lot of my culinary inspiration from the different countries I've visited.

**Q** Which place do you want to visit most in the world and why?

**A** I would really like to visit Canada as I have heard so many good things about the country from family and friends who have visited. It's one of the few places I haven't yet got around to visiting and I hope to do so this summer.

**Q&A**

Inspector Ed Walden is in charge of policing at Kent's 110 railway station. Here the county's most senior British Transport Police officer talks to **Jill Hurst** about the best and worst aspects of his job

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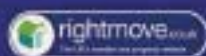
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GOING... GOING... GONE: The end of the massive chimney stacks near the Lafarge Cement were demolished as well-placed explosives were detonated by demolition experts last week

# Chimneys sent tumbling to make way for regeneration

■ BY CHRIS MURPHY

THIS is the moment Kent's skyline changed forever.

Two massive chimney stacks were brought crashing to the ground with the detonation of a pair of well placed explosives.

The chimneys were each 550ft tall and came down in seconds last weekend.

As the crowds watched and cheered, they toppled into clouds of dust while several

hoses pumping hundreds of gallons of water onto the debris battled to keep the fallout to a minimum.

The demolition took place at the Lafarge Cement site in Northfleet, near Gravesend.

For two glorious centuries the towers had lorded it over the region, and yet they tumbled into the earth in almost the blink of an eye.

It was the biggest demolition project in Europe for some time, and now the site will become part of a grand redesign of the area.

Lafarge is turning the site into a mixed-use development that will include new homes,

shops and a riverside promenade – a far cry from the heavy industry for the past 200 years.

The firm also has plans to build an aggregates import terminal at the former cement works, which shut in 2008. This part of the project will create around 100 new jobs for the area.

Company spokesman David Simms said: "We have a clear vision for the future of the site to reconnect the existing Northfleet community with the riverside; revitalise a range of employment opportunities in the area and regenerate formerly derelict land to the benefit of new and existing communities."

## Sanctioned patients kept against their will

MENTAL health patients in Kent are sometimes detained against their will because they do not realise they are allowed to leave, says a new report.

Some patients who voluntarily enter the county's hospitals for treatment are locked in with patients who are not allowed the leave, because for example they have been sectioned.

The findings were made by the Care Quality Commission – England's health and social care regulator – which has now ordered the Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust to make urgent improvements to its working practices or face tougher enforcement action.

CQC regional director Roxy Boyce said: "The trust has been working on improvements since our inspections this year, but CQC has put a condition on its registration because we have not yet seen enough evidence to convince us our concerns have been fully resolved."

The social care partnership trust provides services across Kent and Medway with a main focus on mental health. It also helps people with learning disabilities and substance misuse problems from more than 260 sites across the county.

Linda Leonard – chief executive of the Sevenoaks branch of the mental health charity Mind – said patients needed to be given more information about what they can and cannot do.

She said: "It's important because it concerns people's rights. It's about making sure patients have the right information."

According to the CQC, the trust must revise its informal leave policy for non-detained patients and provide evidence of this from May 1. It must also ensure members of staff are fully-trained to deal with the revised policy by June 1.

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# Songbird's DNA secrets

WHY did the chicken cross the road?

Because scientists had already sequenced its DNA and it wanted to meet the zebra finch, which now joins it as the only other bird to undergo the research.

Darren Griffin, professor of genetics at the school of biosciences at the University of Kent, is among an international group to have mapped the small bird's genome.

The chicken was completed in 2004 and scientists say this new work will help them better understand how humans work.

The research was published in Nature magazine. The team said the work offers an opportunity to understand the human brain during learning and memory, as well as other features such as immunity and fertility. It will also reveal the genetics underpinning some of the uniquely fascinating

■ BY CHRIS MURPHY

traits of birds, such as plumage and song. It was no straightforward task, though.

Teams from across the USA, Europe and the Middle East, including seven UK-based research groups, contributed to the project.

Prof Griffin said: "One of our key findings was the genetic basis of a lot of the variation between chickens and zebra finches.

"Clearly the two birds are very different, but evidence had suggested their genomes were actually very similar. In fact, we now have a clear idea of why this is not the case.

"The chicken was a great start for genomic studies because of the agricultural and embryology angle.

"In evolution, chickens are a bit out on a limb and the zebra finch is a much better representative of the majority of birds.

From here, we can use the information and tools we have developed to study many aspects of bird evolution and ecology."

The teams said zebra finches and other songbirds have one important thing in common with humans: they learn how to converse with one another. Chickens do not demonstrate this, so a comparison between the zebra finch and chicken genomes helped to identify where the genes involved in vocal learning are located.

It has been known for a while that listening to songs affects genes in the brain of a zebra finch.

This project has shown there are also important changes in what the genome actually produces when a young male zebra finch first learns his song from an adult tutor.



SMALL WONDER: Prof Darren Griffin with zebra finch

## Fair boost to Bobby Moore fund

FOOTBALL fans have the chance to buy a piece of history while helping to raise money for a good cause.

A memorabilia fair, which includes programmes and badges, has so far raised more than £400 for the Bobby Moore Fund.

Organiser Simon Randall, from Maidstone, is returning to Folkestone Invicta's Buzzlines Stadium, in Cheriton Road, to add to the fund, set up in memory of the 1966 World Cup-winning captain.

One of England's greatest sporting heroes, Bobby Moore was capped 108 times, captained his country a record 90 matches and also won the FA Cup, the European Cup Winners' Cup and was named Footballer of the Year.

The defender played his club football for West Ham and Fulham over a career which spanned more than two decades. He was awarded the OBE in 1967.

His death in 1993, at the age of 51, from bowel cancer, led his widow Stephanie to set up the fund as part of Cancer Research UK and has raised over £12 million and funded



GOLDEN MEMORY: Bobby Moore lifts World Cup

36 projects across the UK.

The fair is in Folkestone Invicta's Stripes Bar on Sunday, from 11am to 2pm.

Entrance is 50p for adults, free for children, and there will also be a raffle.

## Border Agency court challenge on 'unlawful' child interviews

YOUNG asylum-seekers detained at Dover are being denied basic care during "unlawful" interviews with customs officers, claims a new report.

The Refugee and Migrant Justice (RMJ) charity says many children are refused food, rest and medicine until after they have completed "oppressive" grillings with UK Border Agency (UKBA) staff.

In its report - Safe at Last? Children on the Front Line of Border Control - the organisation also alleges young migrants do not have access to legal or adult representatives, nor translators.

Chief executive Caroline Slocock said: "Unaccompanied children arrive hungry, cold and often ill, having travelled for months in great danger.

"Their welcome is an interview by the UK Border Agency that often puts welfare at risk and is used to gather information that is later used against them.

"Such interviews - carried out without independent adult or legal representation, and sometimes without the right interpreters - are unacceptable. Children should not be treated in this way."

RMJ says it first raised concerns about the 'illegal' interviews in March, 2009, when its Does Every Child Matter? report alleged the UKBA was failing to protect the welfare

of young asylum-seekers, as set out in the agency's own code of practice. The charity claims at least 20 interviews take place every month involving children as young as 12, but says the figure could be higher.

Mrs Slocock said: "They say the interviews are intended to help protect children, but unacceptable treatment continues. Children seeking asylum should be given care first. We are taking this to the courts, but in the meantime the interviews should stop."

RMJ has applied to the High Court requesting a judicial review of the interviews, and on their use in the decision-making processes that later affect a child's asylum claim.

UKBA strategic director for protection Hugh Ind said it was not true youngsters were denied basic needs such as rest, food or medicine. He said: "We have a statutory duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and we take this very seriously.

"To ascertain a child's welfare we need to speak to them and an initial interview is necessary. We will continue to ensure vulnerable children are referred to welfare agencies or the police as soon as possible.

"Our staff and interpreters have clear guidance on how to conduct interviews and comply with a code of conduct."



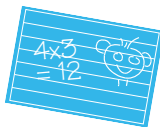
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## BREAK TIME



### Staff and pupils run a mile for charity

A GROUP of teachers and students from St Edmund's School took a break from their school day for the Sport Relief Mile.

Dressed in the Sport Relief colours of red and white, they ran or walked the distance on the Dover school's site, to raise money for the charity.

Spirits were high despite the atrocious conditions, and their bright clothing lit up the school playground.

All runners paid into the charity to take part and each participant was sponsored by their family and friends.

Grainne Collins, collegiate head at St Edmund's and part of the organising team, said: "St Edmund's students and staff are fantastic when it comes to fund-raising; it was great to see so many of them supporting Sport Relief, particularly as we were running in the rain."

Sharon Zelenczuk, a teacher of citizenship and also part of the organising team, commented on how "inspirational" all the students looked as they took part in the challenge.

This view is reflected in St Edmund's recent OFSTED inspection, which said: "Students' contribution to the school and wider community is outstanding, including fund-raising for charity".

# Pupils to cross Channel for a walk on the wild side

■ BY JAMES ALEXANDRE

SCHOOL groups will have the chance to visit a unique nature centre on the other side of the Channel thanks to a cross-council agreement.

Tourism and education chiefs from Kent and northern France have teamed up to promote each others' rural areas, with the centre near Boulogne one of the destinations.

In an area of forests and dunes west of the town, the purpose-designed Arena centre is one of the most important learning centres of its kind in France and receives thousands of visitors every year.

Plans for visits by school groups from Shepway were agreed at a meeting between the six partners in the Transmanche Green Network (TGN) scheme – four in Kent, two in France.

The Boulogne Shepway Canterbury Co-operation Organisation (BOSCO+) co-ordinates the project, which is part-financed by the European Regional Development Fund to promote green tourism and to help conservation management on Romney Marsh; at Reculver, near Herne Bay; and in the Boulogne region.

To help students understand the evolution of the landscape and experience the environmental diversity of Arena, the programme will include escorted walks on forest and countryside trails as well as use of bilingual self-guided tools and a visit to an exhibition area.

Lynn Dockar, of BOSCO+, said the meeting



**WORKING TOGETHER:** Tourism and education chiefs are collaborating to promote green tourism and conservation

of partners had been "most productive" in taking forward ideas and plans devised when the Transmanche Green Network project was launched on Romney Marsh in January.

She said: "We plan an early start for the school visits programme, which will continue into next year. It is designed for primary school children between seven and 10 years old and we look forward to a good take-up right across the district."

"Similar arrangements will enable French

school groups to visit and learn about the Romney Marsh and Reculver centres."

Trans-frontier media promotion, eco-fairs and other events are planned to raise awareness of the areas, which will share the benefits of the TGN project, worth some £650,000.

Partners in the scheme are Kent Wildlife Trust, Shepway council, Discover Folkestone, Hythe & Romney Marsh, Canterbury council, Communauté d'agglomération du Boulonnais and BOSCO+.

**SEND your schools news and pictures to [dave.mairs@kosmedia.co.uk](mailto:dave.mairs@kosmedia.co.uk). You can also upload your video clips of schools events on to [www.yourkenttv.co.uk](http://www.yourkenttv.co.uk)**

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# your letters



LETTERS: Please send your letters to: The editor, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR

EMAIL: Email your letters to the editor, Dave Mairs: dave.mairs@kosmedia.co.uk

## YOUR LETTERS

### Why airlines will not recruit on the Marsh

Shepway council has made an incredibly bad decision if it thinks the proposed expansion of Lydd airport is going to create hundreds of jobs for local people by having major carriers and tour operators with check-in desks.

As far as I am aware, none of the members debating this issue have any experience in recruitment processes used by major airlines. Between 1985 and 1989 I was a recruitment consultant an agency in Crawley, West Sussex, and specialised in recruiting check-in, operations, reservation and cabin personnel for airlines at Gatwick.

This is the location of their main offices and training schools. All new staff are recruited from the surrounding area, trained at the school and sent to wherever they are needed.

This is also the policy of airlines based at Luton and Heathrow.

None of the carriers has a policy of recruiting locally at provincial sites as it is too expensive to accommodate them in the Gatwick area for training. The policy is to transfer existing Gatwick-trained staff to outside locations, even abroad, paying normal relocation costs. So if Virgin, as a theoretical example, decided to operate from Lydd, it would relocate already-trained, experienced staff and recruit in the Gatwick area to replace them. Perhaps it may require, from the Shepway area, a cleaner or a security officer, but that would be all.

Where are these hundreds of jobs coming from? So congratulations, Shepway council, you've cocked it up again, allowing ego to override advice from your own experts.

John Atkins, Greatstone

### Off the beaten track

I attended the much-heralded county rail summit on behalf of Dover and Deal MP Gwyn Prosser and Deal Town Council.

I am not confident our concerns are being heard. Much of the discussion was about problems with the train service from Maidstone and the only mention of east Kent came when we were told about an ambition to develop a new station near Manston airport.

Concerns about the need to bring high-speed trains to Deal and Sandwich as well as the need to reduce journey times were dismissed as minor operational problems. We will have to keep the pressure on to make sure KCC and the rail operators understand proper rail services in east Kent are not just about building a new station in Thanet.

Clr Ben Bano, Deputy Mayor of Deal

### Economies of scale

The Budget puts the spotlight on public spending and local

## your blogger

Each week we get a mystery writer to air their views on living in the district...



IF PUBLIC interest in politics was displayed as a pie chart, it would consist of just one colour and be labelled with a giant thumbs down.

The widespread belief that MPs and would-be replacements are all stereotypical soundbite-belching, back-stabbing, policy-pinching politicians has led to widespread voter apathy, with turnout at the polls steadily declining.

Apart from the odd exposé on second home fiddles or MPs' sex and fetish-related sleaze story, politics rarely captures the public's imagination.

But every so often all the right ingredients come together to propel politics up in the interest stakes, sending Question Time ratings through the roof.

Such a time in almost upon us – the General Election is just around the corner. Importantly, there's no clear favourite in the race for Number 10.

In the one corner we have red-rosette-wearing Scot Gordon Brown and in the other his blue counterpart David 'call me Dave' Cameron.

The days when Tony Blair would walk it without breaking a sweat are gone. This is a proper head-to-head race. And that makes it exciting for us.

We can watch the heavyweight political rivals shout, tease, provoke and point at each other during a heated Prime Minister's Questions.

As things stand, this election is practically teetering on the edge of being settled behind the Houses of Parliament bike shed. Battle lines have well and

truly been drawn, from Westminster to the farthest reaches of the UK.

MPs in marginal constituencies are working their socks off to hold on to their seats while prospective candidates are working just as hard to snatch them away. Look outside your house/office/train now. I'll bet within ten minutes you'll be able to spot a campaigner canvassing for your vote.

And they'll do anything to get you on side. So why not see what they're willing to offer in return for your X against their name when you go to the polls.

Your support is surely worth at least a Mars bar? Or perhaps you can convince your MP to hop on one leg in return for your vote? It's worth a go.

And when our MPs and wannabe-MPs are not out door-knocking, they're back at HQ desperately seeking some dirt to fling at their opposition. It's like watching Trisha.

"He'll raise taxes ... and he supports ID cards," one MP's press release could potentially scream.

"No I won't ... and no I don't, they're lying. Besides his party wants to hand over power to Brussels," comes the ever-escalating response.

So I urge you, pay attention and get involved.

Once the election is over the boring status quo will soon be restored. That is until the next scandal is spread across the tabloids.

**EDITOR'S NOTE: All blogs are supplied with full name and address of the authors. They do not reflect the view of the newspaper but are designed to give our readers the chance to air their views.**

If there is a story in your area you think we should be covering contact the editor, Dave Mairs, on 01303 817022 or email him on the details above. If you want to be the next blogger then all you have to do is submit an article to us (of around 550 words) and email it to the editor.

And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town log-on to [www.kentnews.co.uk](http://www.kentnews.co.uk).

authorities' wasteful spending.

Public spending is a target for heavy cuts. Having four councils in east Kent providing the same services is wasteful, unnecessary and unacceptable.

Merging the four councils of east Kent into one would provide enormous economies of scale, reducing drastically the need to cut frontline services and saving millions. Public spending in our local authorities must be addressed and should be a major local election issue.

Reg Hansell, Shepherdswell

### Black hole 'up west'

Readers will no doubt remember that councils across the country were given extra funds in the Budget to tackle the damage caused by this winter's dreadful weather.

Kent County Council's share is £2,448,400. That's an average of £204,000 for each district in the county. Together with the £80,000 per district council area that Conservative-run KCC has announced, this means we could make some progress in tackling the pothole menace in Deal and Dover.

While KCC has made it clear that it intends to spend the £80,000 on slapping a bit of tarmac into any potholes it happens to stumble across, the Government has made it equally clear it wants a proper job done. As the letter from the Department of Transport to the chief executive of KCC says: "there

is evidence that where roads have been properly maintained, winter weather has much less opportunity to do damage".

Of course, it will be up to our current crop of county councillors to ensure the residents of Dover district get a decent share of the money available. It is important that our share doesn't go 'up west' while our Conservative county councillor is electioneering at a McDonald's on the way 'home' from Wolverhampton's Bentley Bridge cinema.

Clr Mike Eddy, Mill Hill ward

### An easy scapegoat

In a story about charging foreign lorry drivers, a spokesman from the AA said motorists often feel intimidated by left-hand drive foreign lorries because they know their car may not always be visible in the trucks' mirrors".

I often wonder if people even realise they are driving beside a foreign vehicle. Those who pay attention will notice either foreign lettering or a non-British number plate. Why drive in such a position, knowing the driver might not be able to see you? A good driver will make extra allowances for such vehicles.

Most of these accidents occur on motorways, so drive in a position where you can be seen and remember as you drive alongside, the closer you get to the cab, the more chance there is that they will not see you, especially in rain or

bad light. Also if the vehicle is turning, as with any artic, they will lose sight of you altogether.

Being foreigners, may make them an easy scapegoat for your own lack of observational skills, but would you like to be treated with such contempt if you drove abroad?

Terry Hudson, by email

### Hidden obsessions

Dr Peter Gardner is correct about the prevalence and great benefits of the sub-group Asperger's Syndrome in medical, scientific, research, cataloguing, maths, computing and engineering.

Volkmar and Bailey (1998) found using strict diagnostic research that parents (20 per cent fathers, five per cent mothers) and relatives of diagnosed children also have it. From my experience I know that AS, a lifelong disadvantage, is also a problem to spouses who married unaware of the disorder.

BBC TV's Autistic Me programme followed a family where the AS son was violent to his father and family. Dr Gardner says genuine interventions, not illusory ones, are required. However, therapy to reduce obsessive interests does not work unless constantly reinforced.

I used to attend all-parliamentary committee meetings for autism and Asperger's where several members displayed typical signs of AS themselves, and were likely to have children or parents with AS.

I would suggest all MPs, ministers, judges, academics and

top civil servants, if screened, would reveal a higher than average proportion with AS, a pervasive condition that needs ongoing repetition of instructions due to the obstinately inflexible nature of such individuals.

Rita Grootendorst, by email

### Weigh out of line

This is a very difficult issue for people of size. What has been missing from much of the discussion is the human element.

We can argue over health and economics, policy and politics, but the reality is in America and all over the world, there are millions of large people who wish to live productive lives in societies that condemn them based on their size.

There are no easy answers and quick fixes, either for weight issues or accommodations.

But while we are debating, it seems only logical that we support all of these people to be productive members of society – not ostracised and not prohibited from contributing. There is a destructive irony in these discussions; while arguing over whether people of size are a burden, we limit their contribution and productivity.

That makes no sense, politically or economically. Whatever a person's size, it only makes sense to support active participation in all aspects of life, free from limiting prejudice.

Rebecca Weinstein

### Pensions go Green

Kent Green Party supports a major shift in public spending to secure a state pension of £170 per week and a better future for older people.

This new Green policy is based upon the party's endorsement of the Pensioners' Manifesto produced by the National Pensioners' Convention, one of the largest campaigning organisations for pensioners' rights in the UK.

The Greens are the only one of the main four parties to support their campaign. The Green Party supports a non-means-tested £170 per week, as well as free social care for all who need it, as is offered in Scotland.

Adding to the incomes of poor households would mean both more saving and some more spending in local shops. The figure of £170 per week is calculated as the minimum required to keep the basic state pension above the official poverty line, according to the National Pensioners' Convention.

The convention has called upon all parties to sign up to their manifesto, which calls for a range of measures to improve conditions for older people.

None of the other major parties have signed up to date.

The Green Party also supports an end to the fixed retirement age, meaning many pensioners might continue working beyond retirement. By doing so, they would continue to contribute tax and national insurance, helping to keep down the actual costs of the new pension level.

Steve Dawe, Green Party



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## DAY & NIGHT

### Concert for church fund

TWO talented performers will be giving a fund-raising concert at the Herne Bay United Church at 7.30pm on Saturday.

Soprano Anne Gardener and pianist Carol Anne Wells present A Song In My Heart, a selection of songs from folk to Broadway. Tickets cost £7, with proceeds going to the church's organ fund. To book call 01227 366322/374776.

### Book up for coach trips

AN EXCITING programme of coach trips from Faversham is being offered by Sweet Scene Trips.

On April 17, join a tour of BBC Television Centre and Westfield shopping centre. A trip to Sluis in Holland is offered on May 9 and a two-night break to the Edinburgh Tattoo departs on August 19. Call 01795 535293 for details.

### Church hosts folk band

FOLK group Quorum will be performing at St Mary the Virgin Church in Willesborough on Saturday.

Enjoy an evening of live music from Brian 'Trooper' Hawes, Mick Waite, Geoff Hutchinson and Ted Bishop.

The concert starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £5 on the door. Wine and soft drinks will be available.

### Bugs' life at museum

DISCOVER the wonder of nature with the Powell-Cotton Museum's Bugs in the Garden event.

Children can look at habitats, try pond-dipping and collect specimens at the museum at Quex Park, Birchington. The event runs until Friday and again from Monday to next Friday. For details visit [www.quexamuseum.org](http://www.quexamuseum.org).

### Learn to make bunting

FAMILIES are invited to make colourful bunting to decorate Herne Bay at free workshops this week.

Run by Animate, the sessions will be held at St Philip Howard Catholic School today, Herne Bay Junior School on Thursday and Herne Junior School on Friday. Places are limited so book by calling 01227 811800.

### Jazz band in comeback

LIVE jazz can be enjoyed at The Grand in Folkestone on Thursday when the Pete Abbott Group returns.

The band, featuring Abbott, Mike Austin, Andy Wall, Roger Jeffery and Claire Harris, will perform in Keppels Music Room from 8.30pm. Admission is £5. To book seats, call 01303 277175.

### Biggins goes to the ball

CHRISTOPHER Biggins will be the special guest auctioneer at Demelza House's May Ball this year.

Held at Eastwell Manor near Ashford on May 15, the event will raise funds for the children's hospice. Guests will enjoy Champagne and a three-course dinner.

Tickets cost £100. Call 01795 845204, email [sarah.taylor@demelza.org.uk](mailto:sarah.taylor@demelza.org.uk) or visit [www.demelza.org.uk](http://www.demelza.org.uk).

# Blowers sure to bowl you over

## HENRY BLOFELD

Saturday, April 10  
Gulbenkian Theatre, Canterbury



SPEND an evening with one of Britain's great characters when Henry 'Blowers' Blofeld returns to Kent.

With his wicked sense of humour and ability to poke fun at every aspect of life, Blofeld has become one of the most beloved figures in broadcasting. In his new show, Caught Short and Grumpy, the cricket commentator talks about everything from sport, writing and food to political correctness and the European Union.

Fans can look forward to a hilarious evening in the company of this self-confessed 'stuffy old fart' as he tells amusing anecdotes from his long career and offers his opinion on all the frustrations of 21st century life.

Whether grouching about the disappearance of old-fashioned light bulbs or making fun of himself as usual, Blofeld has a real talent for blending common sense with his own ridiculous humour and the result is highly entertaining.

Never afraid to turn his insightful wit on his own absurdities, Blofeld loves to mock pomposity and tease anyone who takes themselves a bit too seriously. Find out more about his fascinating life and grumpy opinions in this funny and charming show.

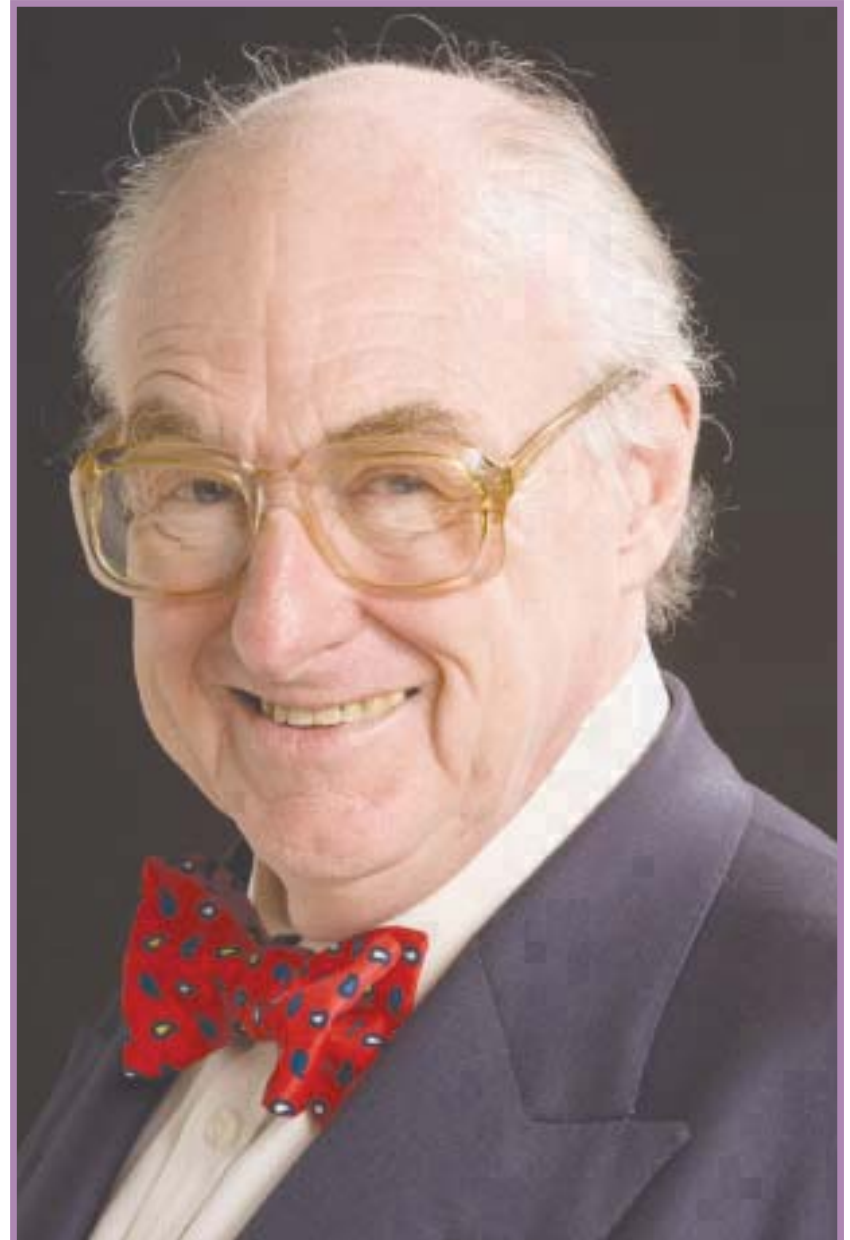
Blofeld has been the voice of BBC radio's Test Match Special for nearly 40 years, and fans have grown to love his distinctive brand of commentary, which regularly wanders from the action to comment on what else is happening in the vicinity. Renowned for his idiosyncratic style, Blofeld is one of British sport's most cherished contributors.

Last year, a multitude of stars took part in his 70th birthday celebrations at London's Royal Albert Hall, highlighting the fond way in which sports fans view this funny and original commentator.

But his stage show is not just for cricket fans – Blofeld talks about his remarkable life and invites the audience to ask questions about anything they like. From Shakespeare to Le Carre, from space travel to sport, Blofeld is ready for anything and his answers are sure to be illuminating.

Growing up in the Norfolk countryside, Blofeld had an old-fashioned childhood during which he had little to do with his parents. The family name was immortalised in Ian Fleming's James Bond books, as the author was a friend of Blofeld's father and decided to bestow the name on 007's arch enemy.

The younger Blofeld's interest in cricket began while he was being educated at Eton and Cambridge, but he was originally destined for a career in finance. After spending three years training to be a merchant banker, he decided he hated it and became a journalist instead. This new career proved more success-



ful and he started working on the Times and became a freelancer for the Guardian. During his long career, he has written for most of the major newspapers and still writes a popular cricket column for the Daily Express.

But his true vocation was discovered in the 60s when the BBC asked him to record a trial cricket commentary. The experiment revealed an exciting new voice that would become a long-term star of their commentary team and

enhance the listening experience.

Over the years Blofeld has revealed himself to be a skilled entertainer, as well as a commentator, and his live shows have proved incredibly popular as people flock to hear the opinions of this broadcasting legend.

The show starts at 7.45pm and tickets cost £17.50/£15.50. To book call the box office on 01227 769075 or visit the website at [www.gulbenkiantheatre.co.uk](http://www.gulbenkiantheatre.co.uk).





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## THE BAND OF THE BRIGADE OF GURKHAS

Thursday, April 8 to Saturday, April 10,  
The Duke of York's Royal Military School, Dover



ENJOY some outstanding music at the annual festival by the Band of the Brigade of Gurkhas.

Now in its 11th year, the fund-raising event offers audiences the chance to hear wonderful music performed by remarkable musicians. This year the band will be joined by West Country singer Tim Pitman, who has recently performed at the Birmingham Military Tattoo.

Other highlights include performances by local singer Rebecca Robinson and London Symphony Orchestra violinist Christine Townsend, who is a

professor of violin at Kneller Hall, the headquarters of the British Army Band Service.

The performance will include a rendition of the haunting theme from Schindler's List. Pipers from the Battalion of the Royal Gurkha Rifles will also be performing during the festival, which takes place in the Nye Hall.

This year, proceeds from the festival will be donated to Help for Heroes. Concerts start at 7.45pm and tickets cost £12/£10. To book call 01304 366337 or visit [www.gurkhafestivalofmusic.co.uk](http://www.gurkhafestivalofmusic.co.uk).



## THE SKINTS

Friday, April 9, Westcoast, Margate



MUSIC fans can enjoy an evening rich in great music when The Skints visit Thanet later this week.

Formed in 2005, the band from London was put together by a group of teenagers who took their inspiration from ska-punk acts like King Prawn and Capdown. As they began to create their own sound however, they drew on more rootsy influences like Augustus Pablo and Max Romeo.

Over the last year, The Skints have performed a number of headline shows and supported the likes of The King Blues, The Slackers and The Aggrolites.

Hey Rudi are sure to fill the dance floor when they provide the main support, as the Kent-based band knows how to belt out great covers of hits by Madness and The Specials.

The event will be a very special occasion for One Letter Better, who make their live debut on Friday. Comprised of second year Canterbury Christ Church University students and the drummer from Medway band, Tyrannosaurus Alan the band will be proving their ska-rock credentials with the opening 20-minute set.

Doors open at 7.30pm and tickets cost £3.

## MAX MILLER, THE CHEEKY CHAPPIE

Saturday, April 10, Memorial Theatre, Broadstairs



FROM the public persona to the private man, Max Miller's life and work is explored in a highly entertaining stage show.

From the 1930s to the 1950s, Miller was one of Britain's most popular comedians and became the country's highest paid variety star.

Rising from his humble beginnings in Brighton, the Cheeky Chappie became hugely successful and was renowned for his ability to hold audiences in the palm of his hand.

On stage, he was a larger than life character who dressed to impress and was not afraid to blow his own trumpet, as his comic genius was clear for all to see. But in private, he was a quiet man who preferred to stay away from the glitter of show business.

Dave Sealey presents an evening of nearly clean laughter, presenting Miller's saucy humour in authentic style, while also revealing something of the man behind the bravado.

The show starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £10 for Sarah Thorne Theatre Club members or £12 for non-members, who must book at least 24 hours in advance. To book call 0845 262 6263 or email [info@sarahthorne-theatreclub.co.uk](mailto:info@sarahthorne-theatreclub.co.uk) to reserve seats.



## CRAFT IN FOCUS 2010

Friday, April 6 to Sunday, April 11, Kent College, Canterbury

DISCOVER the country's best artists and craftsmen when Craft in Focus returns to Canterbury.

Widely considered among the best events of its kind, Craft in Focus exhibits work by leading craftsmen from across the country. Everything is made in the UK and offers a different experience for shoppers who are looking for something new, whether on the hunt for a special gift or a unique piece for their home.

From sculpture, ceramics and artwork to furniture, textiles and glassware, there is a wide choice of products that demonstrates the talent of contemporary designers.

Local exhibitors include silversmith Edward Mahoney from Faversham, ceramicist Louise Hummerstone from Canterbury and Whitstable-based jeweller Teresa Samson, among many others. Visitors will have the chance to learn about how the items are made and find out what inspires these talented artists and craftsmen.

Craft in Focus runs from noon to 5pm on Friday and 10am to 5pm next Saturday and Sunday. Admission costs £4/£3 for adults and is free for accompanied under-14s. To find out more, call 01622 747325 or visit [www.craftinfofocus.com](http://www.craftinfofocus.com).

## THE GRANGE OPEN DAYS

Friday, April 9 to Monday, April 12  
The Grange, Ramsgate

THE home of influential architect Augustus Pugin will open its doors to the public this weekend.

Pugin was a prolific 19th century designer and architect who designed interiors for the House of Lords and influenced the look of many Victorian buildings in Britain. The Grade I listed house is one of the very few domestic houses designed by Pugin and he built it as his own family home, railing against the contemporary trend for Georgian terraces.

During the open days, visitors will be able to see the private chapel and the library where Pugin worked on his designs for the House of Lords. Using fragments found during the restoration process, the house's ornate wallpapers were recreated and adorn the walls once again.

The Grange can be viewed from 10am to 4pm, Friday to Sunday and 10am to 1pm on Monday. The adjacent parish church will be open from 10am to 4pm on Friday, Saturday and Monday and 2pm to 4pm on Sunday. Admission is free and booking is not required. For details call the Landmark Trust on 01628 825925 or email [bookings@landmarktrust.org.uk](mailto:bookings@landmarktrust.org.uk).







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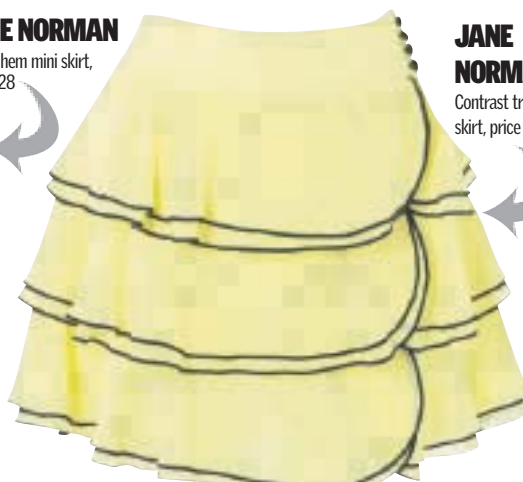
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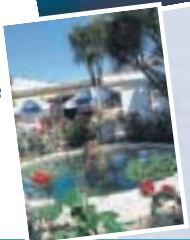
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## EASY

	7	8				2		1
	3		7	1				8
				2				
2		3			6	7	5	
	4			5			1	
7	8	5				9		4
			4					
3				7	9		8	
4	6				1	2		

## EASY

				4				
	9				5	2		4
8			9				5	1
					1			7
2		6				1		9
3			4					
5	8				9			2
4		9	1				3	
				3				

## EASY

				2				3	8
				6	9	5	7		
		1	3						5
8		5					4		3
9						7	1		
		9	1	7	2				
							6		
4	1					6			

## CRYPTIC CLUES

## ACROSS

- 1 Body or just the heart, say (5)  
 4 Agree Ray was puzzled by unclear situation (4,4)  
 8 From birth to death, enjoyable period (4,2,4,4)  
 10 Lazy louse agitated ardently (9)  
 11 This man is on target (5)  
 12 One who is discovered? (4)  
 13 Strain placed on harbour in country with low duties (3,5)  
 17 Burdensome amount of drudgery perhaps (8)  
 18 Fat fashion leader has small party (4)  
 22 No end of good fortune concerning money (5)  
 24 Reserve some diamonds in fashion centre (9)  
 25 Dramatic lovers (5,3,6)  
 26 Duly tear round with grounds for divorce (8)  
 27 Hatter almost upset Greek character (5)

## DOWN

- 1 Townsman takes article into Channel Islands on Buddhist (7)  
 2 Criminal sheep rustler (3-6)  
 3 Exact place ahead (4-2)  
 4 Game complaint (6)  
 5 Happening seven times a week as usual (8)  
 6 OK it is 100% correct (3,5)  
 7 Of little folk who are not completely self-indulgent (5)  
 9 Tub for breakfast cereal? (4)  
 14 He is a card (9)  
 15 Sad beautiful girl's said bloomer (8)  
 16 Hundred leaving transport replaced by thousand at the ceremony (8)  
 17 Kay, after breaking law, to go on foot (4)  
 19 Leaves complaint first about former medicinal drink (4-3)  
 20 Dull dog moving inside dirty place (6)  
 21 Discharge account and leave (6)  
 23 Some manic rowdiness coming from multitude (5)

## QUICK CLUES

## ACROSS

- 1 Cologne's river (5)  
 4 Zip-\_\_\_ (8)  
 8 Revolving firework (9-5)  
 10 Frankness (9)  
 11 Early (anag.) (5)  
 12 Pour (4)  
 13 Largest of Shetland Islands (8)  
 17 Discovered (8)  
 18 Belch (4)  
 22 Even (5)  
 24 Town near Sevenoaks (9)  
 25 Under any circumstances (3,4,2,5)  
 26 Dark colour (4-4)  
 27 In front (5)

## DOWN

- 1 Bat (7)  
 2 Throw in (9)  
 3 Nevertheless (4,2)  
 4 Monastery (6)  
 5 Bony (8)  
 6 Breathing out (8)  
 7 Each (5)  
 9 Poke (4)  
 14 Plenty (9)  
 15 Cold confection (3-5)  
 16 Feast (8)  
 17 Overcast (4)  
 19 Drunk (3-4)  
 20 Nap (6)  
 21 Ukrainian peninsula (6)  
 23 Pansy genus (5)

## YOUR HOROSCOPE BY RUSSELL GRANT



## AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19)

BEWARE of a tendency to spread yourself too thinly. There are plenty of opportunities ahead and you want to experience them all. Choose the path that affords the most intellectual stimulation. Although learning something new will be frustrating, it will be fun, too.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762



## ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20)

YOU'RE determined to spend more time on spiritually fulfilling pursuits. Hanging out with friends is better than spending long hours at the office and of course your nearest and dearest are eager to see you. Heading out with a large group will put a big smile on your face.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aries** 09067-531752



## GEMINI (May 22-Jun 22)

A CULTURED, sophisticated colleague will try to introduce you to a new hobby. You'll meet a lot of interesting friends. As a general rule you like to learn a little about every subject possible, but right now you'll feel compelled to develop expert knowledge in a specialised area.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Gemini** 09067-531754



## LEO (Jul 24-Aug 23)

YOUR high ideals prompt you to make a brave move. Confronting someone who has abused their power will put you in a dangerous spot. Still, you're willing to risk everything for the sake of fairness. People admire your courage and may even get a crush on you as a result.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Leo** 09067-531756



## LIBRA (Sep 24-Oct 23)

AN ATTENTIVE admirer is poised to wine and dine you. Although all this attention is flattering, it can be claustrophobic, too. Be sure to set aside some time for solitary pleasures. You're a lot more self-sufficient than you realise. Give yourself a chance to connect with your inner spirit.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Libra** 09067-531758



## SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21)

YOU'RE in the mood for fun, and why not? Recently you've been buried under a flurry of family responsibilities. Now you have a chance to get out and party. Join forces with a mischievous friend who likes getting in trouble. Together, you'll paint the town red.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Sagittarius** 09067-531760



## PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20)

YOU'RE in a good mood and feel excited at the prospect of starting a new job. This opening or opportunity will bring in lots of money, but more importantly it will give you a great deal of creative satisfaction. Trust your instincts when it comes to dealing with a counsellor.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Pisces** 09067-531763



## TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21)

YOU'RE very impressive now, so be sure to surround yourself with positive, practical people. A wonderful job opportunity could become available. At first glance, this position will seem out of reach. With encouragement you could actually get an interview and make a great impression.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Taurus** 09067-531753



## CANCER (Jun 23-Jul 23)

AN EXCITING career opportunity is about to land in your lap. Although the interview process will be gruelling you owe it to yourself to give it your best shot. If you have a choice between working for a flat salary or earning a commission, choose the latter.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Cancer** 09067-531755



## VIRGO (Aug 24-Sep 23)

AN INTENSE relationship is getting even hotter. You feel inexplicably drawn to someone who makes you furious one minute and happy the next. In the past, you paired up with people who offered you safety and security. Now you're ready for a walk on the wild side.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Virgo** 09067-531757



## SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22)

LAUNCHING a spring cleaning project will keep you busy in the days ahead. Every once in a while you feel overwhelmed. When this happens, clear out your cupboards. Although you enjoy hanging on to old things, there's a difference between sentimental value and junk.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Scorpio** 09067-531759



## CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20)

STRONG ties to family prompt you to cut back your work schedule. If you've been coping with a horrible commute, you may decide to open a home-based business. You have the makings of a successful entrepreneur, thanks to your past experience and common sense.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Capricorn** 09067-531761

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## LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD & SUDOKU SOLUTIONS

## CRYPTIC SOLUTION No130

**ACROSS:** 1 Impact 4 Smutch 10 Tricolour 11 Jaunt 12 Karachi 13 Sirocco 14 Storage heater 16 Put a foot wrong 21 Debauch 22 Horizon 24 Iraqi 25 Annabelle 26 Yelped 27 Etched.

**DOWN:** 1 Intake 2 Prior 3 Choicer 5 Majorca 6 Truncheon 7 Hatbox 8 Coming to a head 9 Cross-hatching 15 Thumbnail 17 Abusive 18 Rarebit 19 Oddity 20 Indeed 23 Zilch.

## QUICK SOLUTION No132

**ACROSS:** 1 Past tense 8 Catherine-wheel 10 Unreserve 11 Layer 12 Team 13 Mithrandir 17 Detected 18 Bump 22 Level 24 Tonbridge 25 For love or money 26 Navy-blue 27 Ahead.

## EASY

8	5	7	6	1	9	3	2	4
9	2	6	5	3	4	7	1	8
1	3	4	2	8	7	9	5	6
6	7	9	8	2	3	1	4	5
2	8	5	9	4	1	6	7	3
4	1	3	7	5	6	2	8	9
3	9	2	4	7	5	8	6	1
7	4	1	3	6	8	5	9	2
5	6	8	1	9	2	4	3	7

## MEDIUM

1	3	4	8	5	7	6	9	2
6	8	2	3	9	4	1	5	7
5	9	7	1	2	6	4	3	8
9	1	5	7	6	2	3	8	4
3	7	8	4	1	5	9	2	6
4	2	6	9	3	8	7	1	5
2	5	3	6	4	1	8	7	9
8	4	9	5	7	3	2	6	1
7	6	1	2	8	9	5	4	3

## HARD

4	9	7	5	6	1	3	8	2
1	3	2	8	9	7	5	4	6
6	8	5	3	2	4	9	7	1
8	1	4	2	7	9	6	3	5
2	7	6	4	5	3	8	1	9
3	5	9	1	8	6	7	2	4
5	4	1	6	3	8	2	9	7
9	6	8	7	4	2	1	5	3
7	2	3	9	1	5	4	6	8

# yourweather

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## TODAY'S FORECAST



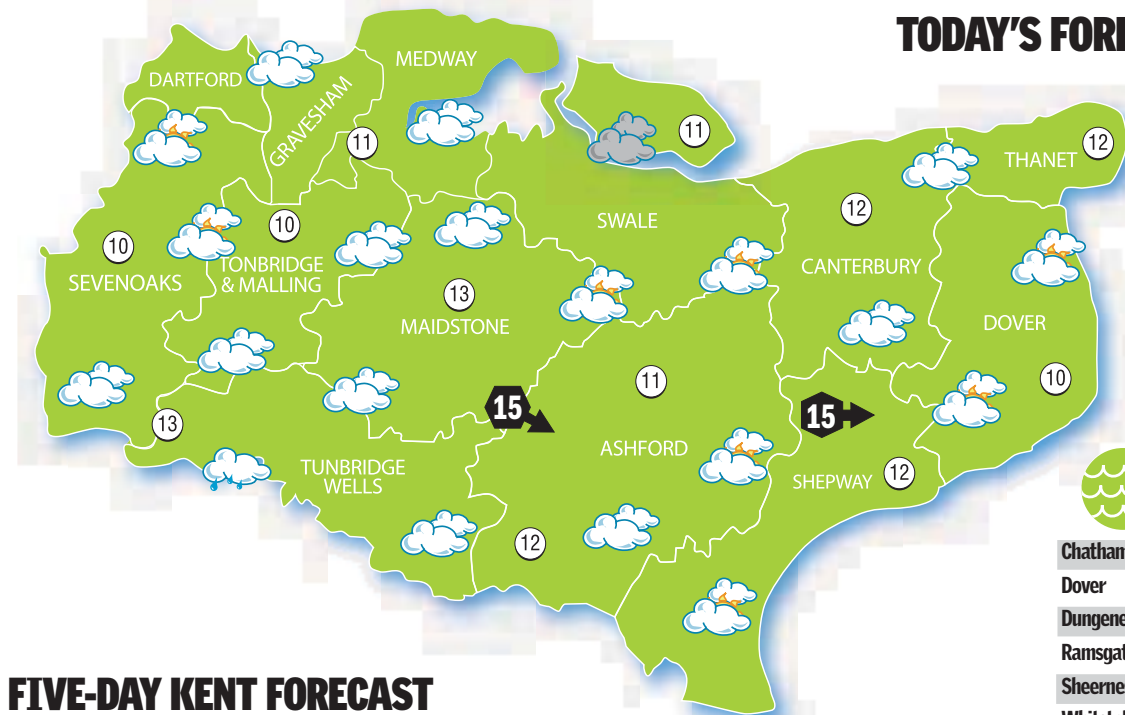
## AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	9°C	Madrid	17°C
Athens	19°C	New York	21°C
Barcelona	14°C	Paris	13°C
Beijing	16°C	Rome	13°C
Bombay	36°C	Sydney	20°C
Cape Town	24°C	Tenerife	21°C
Cardiff	10°C	Tokyo	9°C
Gibraltar	16°C	Vancouver	13°C
Hong Kong	26°C	Warsaw	16°C
Las Palmas	21°C	Wellington	15°C



## KENT'S WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Location	Day	Time	Height
Chatham	Saturday	11:14am	5.1m
Dover	Saturday	9:43am	5.5m
Dungeness	Saturday	9:23am	6.1m
Ramsgate	Saturday	10:13am	4.2m
Sheerness	Saturday	11:03am	4.9m
Whitstable	Saturday	11:10am	4.6m
Chatham	Sunday	12:00pm	5.4m
Dover	Sunday	10:24am	5.8m
Dungeness	Sunday	10:12am	6.5m
Ramsgate	Sunday	10:54am	4.4m
Sheerness	Sunday	11:49am	5.2m
Whitstable	Sunday	12:00pm	4.8m



## FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Ashford	14°C	12°C	14°C	13°C	12°C
Canterbury	15°C	11°C	12°C	11°C	10°C
Chatham	13°C	11°C	12°C	10°C	9°C
Dartford	15°C	13°C	14°C	13°C	12°C
Dover	13°C	10°C	11°C	11°C	10°C
Faversham	13°C	11°C	12°C	10°C	9°C
Folkestone	13°C	10°C	11°C	11°C	10°C
Gillingham	13°C	11°C	12°C	10°C	9°C
Gravesend	15°C	13°C	14°C	13°C	12°C
Maidstone	15°C	13°C	13°C	14°C	12°C
Ramsgate	15°C	11°C	12°C	11°C	10°C
Rochester	13°C	11°C	12°C	10°C	9°C
Sevenoaks	13°C	11°C	12°C	11°C	11°C
Sittingbourne	13°C	11°C	12°C	10°C	9°C
Tonbridge	14°C	12°C	13°C	14°C	13°C
Tun Wells	14°C	12°C	13°C	14°C	13°C



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MOONRISE 3.34am MOONSET 12.11pm



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# Dragon-training tale scales new heights in animation

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

ALMOST 10 years since Shrek emitted his first pungent burp, DreamWorks Animation soars to dizzying heights with a brilliantly-executed and deeply-touching story of one boy's friendship with a supposedly fearsome dragon.

Madagascar and Kung Fu Panda both lacked spark, but How To Train Your Dragon has invention and emotion in abundance, and will delight audiences of all ages with its lush visuals and smart script based on the book by Cressida Cowell.

Screening in 3D in selected cinemas and traditional 2D everywhere else, Dean DeBlois and Chris Sanders' fantasy combines a traditional rites of passage drama with breathtaking action and uproarious comedy.

The eye-popping format works especially well during the vertiginous flying sequences – you feel like you can almost reach out and touch the clouds as human and beast soar through the air in perfect harmony.

The unlikely hero is a weedy Viking called Hiccup, who has been told his whole life that dragons are evil beasts that would eat a man as soon as look at him.

Consequently, Hiccup and the other children in the village grow up with a hatred of the creatures and dream of training for battle alongside their warrior fathers.

Alas, Hiccup is too feeble and his father, tribe leader Stoick, protects the youngster from harm by entrusting him to the care of burly blacksmith, Gobber.

"One day I'll get out there, because around here, killing a dragon is everything," bemoans Hiccup.

Gobber convinces Stoick that dragon training might give the boy some backbone.



**EMOTIONAL:** Hiccup the Viking forms a touching bond with Toothless the dragon after nursing him back to health

So Hiccup joins feisty Astrid, Fishlegs, Snotlout and the twins Ruffnut and Tuffnut in the ring, where they learn to cope with all manner of fire-breathing creatures.

But unbeknown to the other recruits, Hiccup has befriended an injured dragon – a mysterious Night Fury – and has nursed the creature back to health and even nicknamed him Toothless. As the bond between animal and boy deepens, Hiccup questions everything he has ever been told.

How To Train Your Dragon is a wonderful adventure for the entire family, underpinned by the bond between Hiccup and Toothless that develops organically as the two characters become accustomed to each other.

The freedom that the boy feels in the sky contrasts with his suffocation on terra firma.

Vocal performances are strong.

Actor Jay Baruchel milks every ounce of sympathy for young Hiccup as he tries to make everyone happy and become the Viking

that Stoick wants him to be. When Stoick inevitably discovers his son's betrayal and angrily disowns him – "You're not a Viking, you're not my son!" – there's a genuine lump in our throats, which we soon swallow when the script delivers yet another belly laugh before setting up the rousing finale.

**HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON** Certificate PG



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## YOUR TV REVIEW ASK THE CHANCELLORS: Channel 4, Thursday

■ BY JAMES ALEXANDRE

TELEVISION history is set to be made over the next few weeks with live election debates between the three main party leaders.

The deal was negotiated between the big three broadcasters, the BBC, ITV and Sky. However, not to be outdone, Channel 4 neatly added its own footnote by coming up with an exclusive Chancellors' Debate.

Not only was this a stroke of genius, considering how much of a key role the economy is going to play in voters' minds, but there were no rules to stifle it.

Unlike the prime ministerial debates, there were no pre-arranged time limits and the current incumbent Alistair Darling, together with his Tory and Lib Dem counterparts George Osborne and Vince Cable, were free to speak at length.

There was no blood on the carpet from a hoped-for knockout blow, but if anything, this

proved a positive advert for politics. It was polite, robust, succinct and engaging in equal measure and no doubt gave everyone extra food for thought come the expected May 6 polling day.

The Conservatives' Osborne probably had the most to lose as one of the perceived weakest links on the party's front bench, and was caught out on how he would reconcile proposed tax cuts with reducing the deficit.

But he was resolute about the Tories' latest policy decision, announced earlier that day, on reversing part of Labour's proposed national insurance rise, saying it would be bad for business and jobs.

Alistair Darling lost some credibility in suggesting that lower unemployment might avoid deep cuts in public spending, but challenged Osborne over narrowing tax credits.

The Lib Dems' Vince Cable received the most rounds of applause by reminding the audience he correctly predicted the economic meltdown and denounced the other two par-



**GOOD-NATURED:** Chancellor Alistair Darling debates the economy with Vince Cable and George Osborne

ties for being beholden to either militant unions or rich non-doms.

But he was inaccurate in his statement that every former building society had collapsed in the crisis, which those in the former Abbey National offices would take issue with.

But none of the more heated exchanges threatened to boil over and the three suited

men almost seemed to enjoy the novelty of standing behind their lecterns.

Krishnan Guru-Murthy did a competent job as the show's anchor and it was on the whole good-natured and informative, exactly what television executives should strive to achieve, rather than the mud-slinging and insult-throwing we unfortunately expect.



# yourcompetition

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RUNNING a home isn't without its challenges. Ferrying the kids around, tackling that mountain of laundry and finding the time to do the weekly shop all take their toll, leaving you feeling frazzled and, if you're honest, sometimes just a little bit irritable.

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If you're as fond of softness as the Cushelle koala enter this competition to win a king-size duck feather duvet, a pair of pillows, a luxurious

bundle of Egyptian cotton towels, a towel for babies/young toddlers, a plush Cushelle koala toy, a set of bath toys, and a pack of Cushelle toilet tissue – we have two sets to giveaway.

To enter, simply answer the question below and send your entry on a postcard along with your email address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to Cushelle Competition, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR.

The closing date is April 25, 2010.

No purchase necessary

**Question:** What is a baby koala called?

a) Puppy b) Joey c) Kitten

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If you do not wish to receive any literature please write 'no literature' on your entry.



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# yourmusic

## Ray joins all-star line-up at festival



**MAIN SUPPORT:** Former Kinks frontman Ray Davies joins Bob Dylan at the Hop Farm

■ BY JON COATES

FORMER Kinks frontman Ray Davies is the latest big name to be added to the bill of the Hop Farm Festival.

The singer-songwriter will be the main support to headliner Bob Dylan at the Paddock Wood event on Saturday, July 3.

Davies will head for the Hop Farm a week after playing Glastonbury Festival's pyramid stage.

The 65-year-old, who embarked on a successful solo career in the mid-90s and was awarded a CBE by the Queen for services to music in 2004, is best known for the classic hits he penned for The Kinks, including You Really Got Me, All Day and All of the Night, Sunny Afternoon and Waterloo Sunset.

English indie rock band The Magic Numbers and Northern Irish singer-songwriter Foy Vance have also been added to the Saturday bill of the festival.

The Magic Numbers, two brothers and two sisters who met at a Catholic school in Middlesex, have released two albums and supported Travis and Snow Patrol on tour.

Foy Vance, 35, from Bangor, County Down, released debut album Hope in 2007 and has a live EP out now of a performance with Ulster Orchestra at the Waterfront in Belfast.

The Saturday line-up now reads Bob Dylan, Ray Davies, Mumford & Sons, Seasick Steve, Pete Doherty, Laura Marling, The Magic Numbers, and Foy Vance.

The site off the A228 near Paddock Wood will open at 6pm on Friday, July 2, for anyone wanting to camp. There will be a small bill on the Friday night, which is yet to be announced.

Tickets, which cost £65 for the Saturday event, including car parking, and another £25 for the two nights camping and Friday bill, are on sale online at [www.hopfarmfestival.com](http://www.hopfarmfestival.com).

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Golden Silvers perform at Lounge on the Farm



Funk rockers Tokyo Jo



### TOP FIVE KENT GIGS

- 1 Craig Sheridan - Aurora (from Deal)
- 2 Craig Sheridan - Winter Sunn
- 3 CWB - Footsteps (from Canterbury)
- 4 Rogues Down - Poison Arrow (from Deal)
- 5 I.R.I.S - Thicker Than Water (from Deal)

The site will open for day ticket holders at 11am on the Saturday, with Dylan due to finish his headline set at 11.30pm.

Festival organiser Vince Power said: "For the third year there will be no sponsorship and branding, and no VIP area. We are trying to put the emphasis on the music."

Another event is being planned for Sunday, July 4, which will have a different type of bill. The line-up for this is due to be announced later this month.



**EYE TO EYE:** A polar bear gets up close and person with intrepid guests on the Tundra Buggy near Churchill in northern Canada

## yourgetaways

# We're going on a bear hunt in frozen wastes of Canada

■ BY EMILY BEAMENT

AFTER studying us carefully for several minutes to see if we might make a suitably tasty lunch, the giant bear finally lost interest in us, turned, and headed off across the snow.

"In the bear world, the bigger the bum, the better," explained our expert guide Patrick Rousseau.

It seems colder winters keep the ice frozen for longer periods, enabling them to eat more seals as the weather turns colder.

We're out on the tundra near Churchill, a village in northern Canada about 600 miles north of Winnipeg, and about 600 miles south of the Arctic Circle. It calls itself the polar bear capital of the world, and with good reason.

Getting here isn't easy. After an eight-hour flight into Winnipeg, a 20-seater plane takes you north over frozen wastes for another two hours.

Barely 1,000 people live in Churchill, but each autumn, hundreds of polar bears gather here on the shores of Hudson Bay.

It is not just their bottoms that are big. Polar bears are the world's largest carnivore found on land, and everything from their dinner-plate sized feet, to their highly-sensitive black noses, is absolutely enormous.

Males weigh 1,600lbs or more, but only when a polar bear rears up on its hind legs to look you in the eye do you realise how powerful and fearsome they are.

Luckily we were inside a 'tundra buggy' – a large, solid vehicle on six-foot-high tractor wheels once used to practise the invasion of Russia.

You can get a sense of the scale of the vast, cold wilderness on a heli-

### FACT FILE: CANADA

<b>Time difference</b>	-3.5 to -8 hours (GMT)
<b>Capital</b>	Ottawa
<b>Language</b>	English and French
<b>Population</b>	34 million
<b>Currency</b>	Canadian dollars

Emily Beament travelled on 13-day Polar Bear adventure with Thomas Cook Tours and Canadian Tourism Commission, from £4,295. The package includes Air Canada international flights, door-to-door pick-up for travellers in the South East and regional connecting flights. Thomas Cook Tours reservations: 0844 871 5170 and [www.thomascooktours.com](http://www.thomascooktours.com). Further information is available on [www.canadatourism.com](http://www.canadatourism.com).



copter trip, from which we spotted bears and other wildlife, including moose.

With Patrick, who worked as a wildlife biologist for the Canadian National Park Service for 34 years, sharing his knowledge, we gained a great insight into the life of bears.

Although they can look cute, they are 10 feet tall on their hind legs, and easily able to peek in through our driver's window.

One bear peered at us through the front windscreen, allowing us to see how they can wiggle their noses – which we were told can smell through six feet of ice, and pick up the scent of a seal five miles away.

And as for those big bums, Patrick told us the ice had lasted longer than normal in the summer, allowing them more time to feed, and the bears were in better shape than they have been for some time.

Life is more comfortable for the

human out-of-towners; we were chauffeured around the town in an old school bus for a history tour, a visit to the Eskimo Museum and a talk by local photographer and wildlife expert Mike Macri.

While we were out on the tundra all day – with picnic lunches on the buggy – hearty breakfasts and dinners were provided in town at Gypsy's restaurant, and there was even time to brave the cold for a bit of shopping in the gift shops.

Polar bears are not the only wildlife seen in Churchill, which is also home to Arctic and red foxes, birds such as ptarmigan and, in summer, beluga whales who venture up the Churchill river. You might even see the Northern Lights.

However, in the autumn, it is all about the bears, and I will never forget coming face-to-face with the most famous inhabitant of the increasingly-fragile Arctic.



# MONEY MATTERS

A Newton's cradle with five spheres. The sphere on the far left is in motion, having just struck or about to strike the other four spheres. All spheres are shaped like the pound sterling symbol (£). The background is a dark blue gradient.

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- Help your tenants cut their costs
- Check your lease to avoid repair bills
- Passing on the business baton
- Your word is your bond – or is it?
- Getting the best car deal after Scrappage
- Economy drive – cost-effective motoring
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# Help tenants cut costs

IN these economically challenging times, virtually every company – from global corporates to small enterprises – will be monitoring their expenditure and making economies wherever possible.

And one way a landlord can help businesses minimise their outgoings is by negotiating better deals on utilities and services on their tenants' behalf. The resulting savings can then be passed on in reduced service charges.

All tenants are looking for value for money and quality of service, and if landlords don't do their best to retain their loyalty, occupiers are likely to vote with their feet and move. In these difficult times we all need to make that extra effort to retain our core business.

As owners and managers of substantial business parks in the UK and the USA, we have considerable buying power. However, all landlords can make savings for their tenants. They should meet all their contractors to review existing contract terms, frequency of service, explore bulk-buying opportunities and renegotiate contractor profit margins. They should also research the best utility contracts on the market, which can vary considerably.

We have done all this at Kings Hill and renewed our contracts early to secure the best possible prices.

This saving can have a huge impact on businesses. It could mean that redundancies don't have to be made because the savings can cover salaries. It could free up funds for researching new markets or simply mean that businesses can stay afloat.

Responsible landlords will probably already have sought better deals for their 2010 service charge budgets. However, those occupiers who

**Andrew Blevins**, managing director of Kings Hill developer Liberty Property Trust UK Ltd, explains how landlords can help occupiers beat the recession by securing reduced service charges



**SAVINGS:** Liberty Property Trust at Kings Hill have reviewed their service contracts for 2010

feel that the service charges they are paying are too high should contact their landlord to see if reductions can be made in the 2011 budget rounds.

Typically, service charges are payable quarterly, with a reconciliation after year-end resulting in further payment or rebate. To ensure that the year-end resolution is dealt with fairly, tenants could seek the advice of a chartered surveyor who would assess the fair-

ness of the charges, ensure that the tenants are receiving what they are paying for and ensure the quality of provision.

The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors website provides guidance to landlords to ensure good practice prevails. Visit [www.rics.org](http://www.rics.org)

• **Kings Hill is an 800-acre mixed-use community near West Malling. For more information visit [www.kings-hill.com](http://www.kings-hill.com).**

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**Richard Metcalfe** of Metcalfe Stanley Hicks chartered building surveyors, warns businesses they may find themselves seriously out of pocket if they neglect a little-understood area of their leases



**FOREWARNED:** Chartered building surveyor Richard Metcalfe could save you money

# Don't get landed with repair bill

EVERYBODY who leases a commercial property needs to understand that unless you take appropriate steps before signing the lease, you will be responsible for repairing the property before you leave, regardless of its condition when you first occupy it.

Failing to understand the terms of their lease and its obligations can leave many businesses facing substantial and unwelcome

costs at the end of their term. In the vast majority of cases it is the responsibility of the outgoing leaseholder to repair and reinstate the property before the end of the lease. In the absence of this, the leaseholder must compensate the landlord.

Getting the work done can be disruptive to the leaseholder's business and may force them to vacate early. Negotiating a financial sum with the landlord can be difficult and may involve substantial legal costs.

Chartered building surveyors work closely with legal advisors to negotiate the pitfalls of dilapidations, ensuring that their clients, be

they landlords or leaseholders, respectively maximise their gains or minimise their losses when buildings are being vacated.

Too often businesses believe that, as they are leasing rather than purchasing, there's no need for a building survey. This is a dangerous misconception and before signing any commercial lease you must obtain proper professional advice and quantify your liabilities.

As a lease nears its end, landlords also need to take appropriate legal advice and consult a chartered building surveyor. A Schedule of Dilapidations must be prepared and served on the lessee in good time and in sufficient detail

by an experienced chartered building surveyor practitioner.

If you are the prospective leaseholder the message is – forewarned is forearmed – consult your chartered building surveyor before you sign the lease, and again in the last year of the lease, so that you may plan your effective exit.

The key is not waiting until you receive a Schedule of Dilapidations from your landlord.

• **For more information or to contact Metcalfe Stanley Hicks, go to [www.msh-cbs.co.uk](http://www.msh-cbs.co.uk).**

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# Onward and

For many businesses at the moment, survival is the name of the game, but when the upturn comes the issue of succession will once again return to the forefront of many owners' minds. **Paul Saunders**, managing partner of Clydesdale Bank for Kent, believes that the sooner you start planning, the better the chances of a successful exit and succession



COMPANY owners often leave it too late when it comes to succession planning, increasing the potential for internal wrangling and disputes which can cause people to take their eyes off what's important – running the business.

At the heart of the problem lies the fact that, for many owners, there's seldom enough time to accomplish day-to-day tasks, let alone plan for something that could be years away. So, when should you start succession planning? For many, it's when they have successfully navigated the start-up phase and

are approaching maturity, which is a time when the business is secure enough to start planning a succession and, ultimately, an exit. Once the decision has been made, the business owner needs to carry through the process demonstrating that this is all about the long-term wellbeing of the organisation and its workforce.

If employees have any uncertainty over the future direction of the business, then they will develop their own exit strategy and with it the risk that the best will fly the nest. At best this would hinder the exit, at worst scupper the business. So clear communication with everybody concerned is vital.

A fundamental issue is: who should succeed? And if, after auditing the firm's own talent pool and mapping that against key

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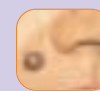
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# upward as baton passes

positions, the right person, or persons, aren't to be found within the business, then the company needs to recruit them. Recruiting good people always pays dividends and is a key area of importance in succession planning.

Before succession, it's all about transition, and there's a need to actively develop longer-term successors by ensuring their careers progress and the range of work experiences that they, and the business, need for the future.

Fostering a corporate culture, which develops its workforce by sharing key skills, experiences and values, is important for any organisation. Investing time in developing family members, key employees, and management team members, and allowing them to exercise authority and control, will be vital to a successful succession.

With a transition plan and the right people in place, the actual task of selecting a successor becomes much easier. By empowering key members of the business, the selection process is simplified and the owners' exit options are broadened.

Once the decision as to who will succeed is made, the key task for the owner is communicating that plan, not just to the workforce, but beyond the business to customers, suppliers and advisers. This communication gives the successor and their colleagues a clear understanding of the path to the future and the different roles they are going to play in the journey. It also means everyone can focus on setting future goals and objectives for themselves and, importantly, the business.

An owner exiting a business also has signif-

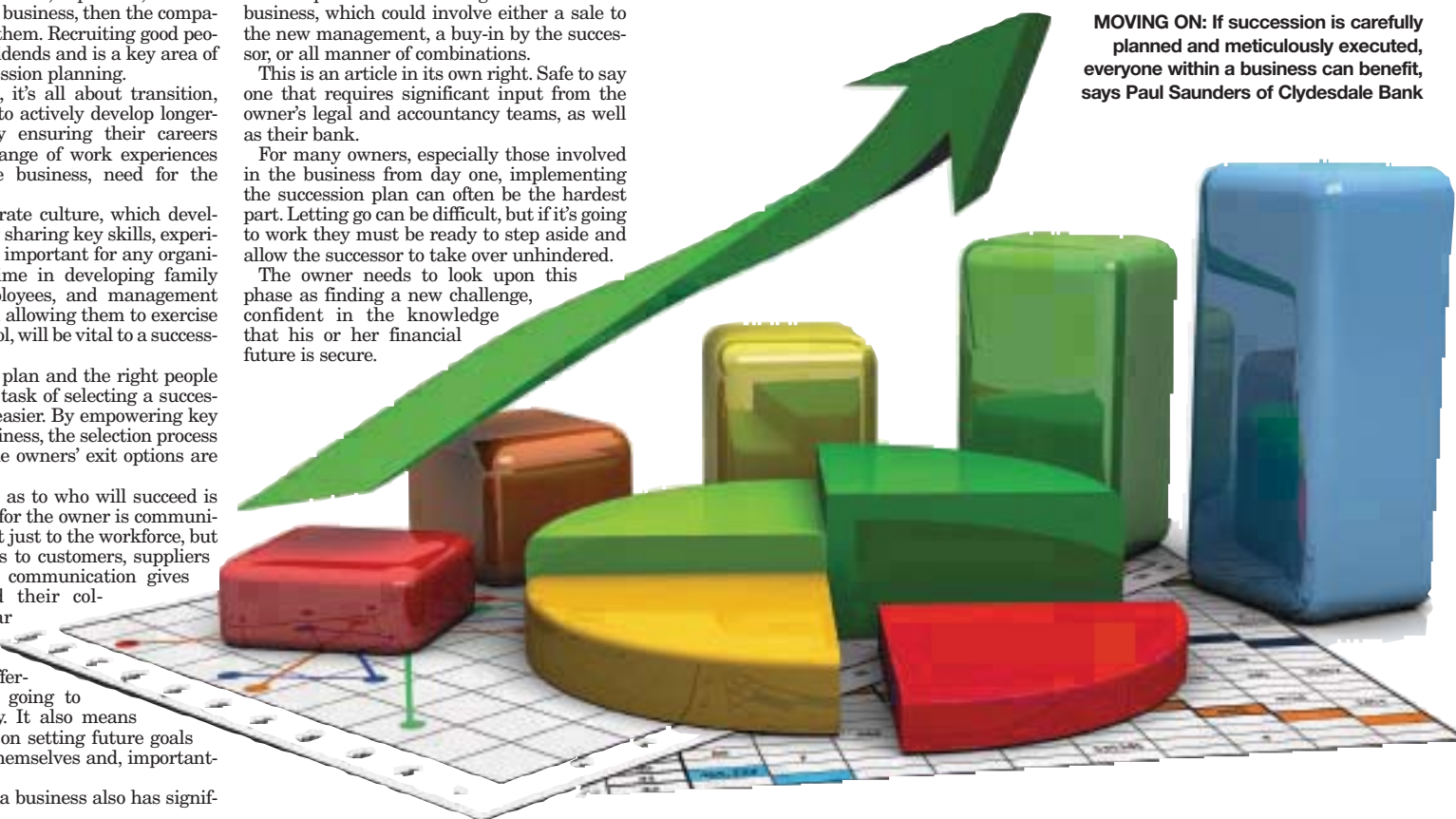
icant implications for the legal structure of a business, which could involve either a sale to the new management, a buy-in by the successor, or all manner of combinations.

This is an article in its own right. Safe to say one that requires significant input from the owner's legal and accountancy teams, as well as their bank.

For many owners, especially those involved in the business from day one, implementing the succession plan can often be the hardest part. Letting go can be difficult, but if it's going to work they must be ready to step aside and allow the successor to take over unhindered.

The owner needs to look upon this phase as finding a new challenge, confident in the knowledge that his or her financial future is secure.

**MOVING ON:** If succession is carefully planned and meticulously executed, everyone within a business can benefit, says Paul Saunders of Clydesdale Bank



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# When trust is

Do you need a written contract to have a legally binding deal? The answer may surprise you, explains **Henar Dyson**, of Tunbridge Wells-based law firm Thomson Snell & Passmore

WHEN is a deal not a deal? Does a handshake or the undertaking of work represent a contract? Or do both sides need to have something in writing, signed and sealed, before it's official?

It's a thorny topic and one which continues to spark debate.

A recent article in The Times newspaper considered whether trust between contracting parties is an effective substitute for a contract.

The reality is that the law will imply contractual terms into any business arrangement, whether or not there is a written document.

There are also circumstances where a written contract is a legal requirement. The question, then, is whether parties can dispense with a fully-negotiated contract, where there is mutual trust.

Even lawyers will agree that contracts can take on a life of their own and become unwieldy. Word processing technology, an explosion of regulation in some areas and an increasingly litigious business environment have been largely responsible for this.

But is a negotiated contract a bad thing? There are good reasons for having one:

- It records what the parties have agreed, helping to avoid future argument;
- It apportions risk, making clear who pays if something goes wrong; and
- It will iron out the uncertainties of the general law position.

This said, there are obvious downsides to an overly-prescriptive contract. The costs of negotiation and dispute resolution can be huge. No contract can legislate for every eventuality, and this can lead to an unexpected result in court if an argument arises over circumstances that are not catered for in the contract.

International contracts present additional difficulties, where lawyers from different legal cultures try to devise a universal legal language. Also, the process of negotiation can result in a loss of trust between the parties.

## Why contracts are necessary

Undoubtedly, no business arrangement can succeed without the parties trusting each other. In most cases, nor will it without a contract. There are many reasons for this:

- The basic reasons for negotiating a contract are still valid. This is not a question of lack of trust, but of practicality;
- It takes time to build up the necessary degree of trust, far more time than it takes to negotiate a balanced contract;

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# simply not enough...



**IT'S A DEAL:** A handshake may suffice in smaller organisations, but where a high-value job is at stake, draw up a contract

- Where the power of the parties is mismatched, a negotiated contract will help the weaker party;
- High-level management does not have the time or necessarily the ability to resolve all disputes;
- Shareholders would be unlikely to support the company if they knew how potentially exposed it was.

Whilst contracts are still necessary, the level of detail in them is not always beneficial and

there are circumstances where this can and should be controlled.

For regular arrangements between the same parties, contracts can set out general principles, but need not be overly prescriptive. It is not uncommon for businesses to operate in this way.

For one-off arrangements or very high value transactions, this is not appropriate. The risks and the 'unknowns' are too high and too many. Consider also a smaller organisation, where

management knows and trusts its own staff. In those organisations, there may be scope for trust to replace a negotiated contract. In larger organisations, this is not feasible.

The production of an effective contract need not be time-consuming if clients agree terms before engaging lawyers and set a sensible timetable for concluding negotiations. The mark of a well-negotiated contract is that everyone sleeps well and the contract lives in a drawer, never to be seen again.

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# New wheel deals roll in as Scrappage is crushed

By **STEVE LOADER**

SCRAPPAGE may be dead, but keen new car deals live on in a much changed motor trade.

Half of the £2,000-a-time Scrappage grant for new car buyers part exchanging a 10-year-old (or more) banger came from car makers and dealers – some even threw in more cash to sweeten a deal.

It has made even the most conservative car buyer realise that list price didn't have to mean final price and it was worth haggling, especially with dealers just happy to survive the economic downturn.

Scrappage has also affected the used car market, because many so-called gas-guzzling bangers the Government hoped to take off the road were well cared for family motors with plenty of life in them.

Lots of real bangers are still out there, because their cash-strapped owners just can't afford to trade up at all – used or new.

Meanwhile, the cars that should never have gone to the scrapper – and dealers can tell heartbreaking stories of part-exchange Scrappage cars too young to die – were denied a new lease of life and the would-be buyers have been forced to move upwards in the used car market.



**TEMPTING DEALS:** Chevrolet's new Spark city car offers big car capacity within compact dimensions

This in turn has exacerbated a chronic shortage of used cars now, because fewer new cars were sold once recession loomed three or four years ago.

Prices have soared as a result and new cars start to look better value, especially when certain car makers are happy to 'buy' sales and market share with keen deals and low-rate finance just to keep their plants turning over.

Buyers may also be tempted because they

have cash earning little in a bank account, which could drive a deal on a new car instead. Before taking the plunge though, here are some do's and don'ts:

Don't be afraid to ask for trimmings like a tank of fuel, car mats or further discounts on extras.

Don't buy an unpopular engine or trim combination or a car on 'run-out' where production ceased a while ago – it might be just as thirsty

as your old car and will depreciate badly.

Do pick a model that saves fuel, insurance, road tax and depreciation – it won't get any easier out there.

Don't go for a knee-jerk disposal. A new car might still be expensive, even against running your gas-guzzler for the next three years.

Don't be blinded by tax-exempt diesel eco models – check price, running costs and green credentials against the standard version.

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Price of £6,945 relates to Spark 1.0. Vehicle shown is Spark 1.2 LT. Vehicle shown features metallic paint available at extra cost of £365. Available at participating retailers only. Not available in conjunction with any other offers. Available on UK supplied vehicles. Prices correct at time of press.

Official Government Environmental Data. Fuel Consumption Figures MPG (Litres/100 km). Chevrolet Spark range emissions: Urban 42.8 (6.6), Extra Urban 67.3 (4.2), Combined 55.4 (5.1), CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions 119 g/km.

## Essential guide to where you can save

■ KOS Media offer, save up to £214 on a Denby Mist Dinner Set from only £99.99

■ Smallbone Interiors in Broadstairs are offering 25 per cent off all Neff appliances

■ Robins and Day Motors in Maidstone are offering MOTs from £29.99, or service and MOT from £119.99

■ Fleecy Lined Wellies are only £29.99 including postage and packing with a KOS Media offer

■ Lexterten Furniture, Westgate on Sea, Thanet are offering £100 off elevating television cabinets

■ Northgate Alfa Car sales in Canterbury is offering fixed price servicing for cars for three years plus gold care for £169

■ KOS Media are offering Inovalley digital (freeview) 7in LCD TV, intergrated digital photo frame and radio alarm clock for only £119.99 (inc p&p) RRP £149.99

■ Claim a free weekend guest pass to the leisure club at the Village Hotel, Maidstone

■ Stone Media Print in Ashford are offering an A-Board in aluminium at A1 size, including two graphics for £124.99 plus vat

■ Claim 15 per cent off MOTs at Baileys Nissan in Canterbury

■ Claim a five per cent discount on the hypnotherapy course at Belmont Hypnotherapy in Ramsgate

To get these offers go to:  
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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY TO ALL OFFERS



**TAKE CONTROL:** Driving more economically can add to the savings from eco-friendly models like the Vauxhall Insignia ecoFLEX, left, and new MultiAir version of the sporty Alfa Romeo MiTo.

# Smarter driving – better saving

**DOWNSIZING** to a more fuel and tax-efficient car must be just part of your recession-busting motoring plan.

The next stage involves smarter driving and journey planning, and getting fitter by walking and cycling instead of using the car for short journeys – cold engines waste fuel and produce 60 per cent more emissions than warm ones. Short trips also mean more servicing and engine wear. A moped or motorcycle might be a better option. If you must drive, follow these tips from the Institute of Advanced Motorists and RAC Foundation:

- Plan your route to save strain on car and driver. Take the direct route – a sat nav can help – and go off-peak if possible. Commuters should think about car sharing, park and ride

bus schemes or other public transport.

- Have your vehicle serviced regularly.

Neglected engines waste at least 10 per cent more fuel and catalytic converters only clean emissions when properly maintained.

- Check your tyres. Under-inflated tyres wear faster, waste fuel, are dangerous and contribute to a growing environmental problem. Check tyre pressures weekly.

- Obey speed limits to save and stay legal.

Feather the throttle at cruising speed – 56mph uses 25 per cent less fuel than 70mph and a smoother driving style saves fuel.

- Accelerate briskly without racing the engine – pulling away too fast uses up to 60 per cent more fuel. Intelligent gear changes at modest engine speeds can save up to 15 per cent in fuel.

- Reduce drag – remove roof racks and carriers when not in use and keep windows closed

to avoid drag and wasted fuel. Remove unnecessary and heavy boot luggage and wide wheels and tyres that add rolling resistance. Air conditioning costs fuel too, so try to use the fan and vents unassisted.

- Buy green fuel and use less. Look for low-sulphur 'city' diesel or cleaner petrol (low sulphur/aromatics). Consider converting to LPG (liquid petroleum gas) – half the price of petrol and with lower emissions.

- Think ahead – there is no point rushing and then having to brake suddenly.

- Be a tank miser. Why fill the tank to the brim and burn fuel carrying more weight than necessary?

- Stuck in traffic? Turn off the engine after two minutes to save fuel and emissions.

- **For more eco driving tips see Julie Maddocks' online video report at [www.yourkenttv.co.uk/community](http://www.yourkenttv.co.uk/community).**

## Dark Horses.



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**VAUXHALL**

Official Government Test Environmental Data – Fuel Consumption Figures mpg (litres/100km): Vauxhall Astra: urban 12.7 (22.3) – 51.4 (5.5), extra-urban 25.4 (11.1) – 74.3 (3.8), combined 18.6 (15.2) – 62.8 (4.5), CO2 Emissions 119 – 364 g/km.

Models shown have optional metallic paint available at an additional cost of £295. Prices shown are available on selected Retailer stock only, whilst stocks last and cannot be applied in conjunction with any other offer. \*£2000 Government Scrappage Allowance is dependent on the vehicle meeting the full Government Scrappage incentive criteria. The Government Scrappage payment applies to vehicles registered on or before 31.03.09 when traded in against a new car subject to conditions. All offers available to private individuals, Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1-24 purchase only. All other sales categories are excluded. Offers may not apply to all Retailer stock. Offers available at participating retailers only. UK, excluded vehicles only. \*Incl. £2000 government allowance.



# Motoring myths shattered

By **STEVE LOADER**

**DON'T** be suckered by costly motoring myths, says leading company car operator Lex Autolease.

The company runs some 300,000 vehicles for UK companies and has gathered driver feedback showing many bad habits derived from popular myths. The Lex myths hitlist includes:

- **Premium fuel is good for your car now and again**

It is only suitable for high performance cars – the higher cost is repaid by better mpg. Drivers using non-performance cars should stick to ordinary unleaded and diesel.

Another myth suggests supermarket fuel is poorer quality than that from oil companies' forecourts, but they often come from the same source, so you're paying more for the brand and any additives.

- **It's best to fit your new tyres to the front axle**

Actually, they should be fitted to the rear. More grip on the rear axle improves stability on slippery roads and could prevent a spin.

Drivers are also more used to worn tyres on the front, because most modern cars are front-wheel-drive and wear front treads faster than the rears. Switching part-worn rears to the front maintains a familiar balance.

- **Allow the car to warm up before driving off**

The engine will warm up faster, use less fuel and pump out less CO2 if you drive off immediately, rather than leave it to idle for a while. In winter, this also helps the car heater warm faster, though windscreens must be fully defrosted before setting off.

- **Running the tank near to empty helps to clean it**

Fuel tanks do not self-clean. It is more likely that you will misjudge your next fill up and risk seizing the engine or other components; driving with little or no fuel can be almost as damaging to a vehicle as putting in the wrong fuel. Fill up as quick-



**HIT AND MYTH:** The big-selling British-built Qashqai has killed Nissan's old reputation for boring cars

ly as possible when your warning light appears.

- **Filling up slows down your car**

Partially true. A heavy fuel load impacts upon fuel efficiency and braking distances, but acceleration and top speed is barely compromised by a full tank.

- **No-claims protection insurance protects my premium if I have a crash**

Standard insurances only protect the discount you would have received at the end of a claims-free year. If you have a

claim, insurance companies are liable to increase your overall premium, despite having a no-claims protection policy – you are now a classed as an increased insurance risk. Admittedly, the company has a vested interest in the final point:

- **Leasing is more expensive than buying**

Many businesses and motorists fail to properly calculate the true cost of ownership. List price alone is a red herring and ignores true running costs: finance, depreciation, maintenance and insurance. All such costs can be better captured and budgeted through a lease deal.

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- Visually check cooling system for leaks
- Check antifreeze content
- Check drive belts (excludes cam belt)
- Check all fluid levels
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## MOTORS NEWS



### Saab is bjorn again by Dutch saviours Spyker

REPORTS of Saab's rescue from shut-down had been long on Abba-esque 'Bjorn again' headlines and short on how the brand would advance in its new partnership with Dutch supercar maker Spyker.

But production has re-started at Saab's Trollhattan plant and the first vehicle off the line was an all-new 9-5 model; UK order books are open with prices from £26,495 with a generous standard spec. It was followed by a 9-3 Convertible – the other model tipped for a crucial role in the Saab revival.



### Peugeot lion ready to go hunting for Audi TT

PEUGEOT launches its stunning new RCZ sports car in May, to take on yet undercut Audi's TT sports car icon.

It is a dream car at a near everyday price, selling in the UK for just £20,450 with lots of kit – Audi's cheapest TT is £6,000 more with rather less standard equipment. A classy interior highlights how far Peugeot's cabin trimming has advanced recently and the RCZ also draws attention to the French lion brand's ambitions to scale global motor rankings over the next few years.



### New city car receives A1 for effort and style

AUDI is opening order books in May for its compact yet sleek and sporty three-door A1, targeting premium city car buyers.

Priced from £13,000, it comes with alloys, air con and electronic stability control, highlighting that people still want image and comfort even when downsizing. The A1 will be offered with petrol and diesel powertrains and is claimed to carry four people and their luggage.

However, it has to be more profitable for Audi than the innovative, but loss-making A2 of a decade ago.



**COST CUTTER:** Volvo's DRIVE offers low emissions and the Swedish firm's Start/Stop system which cuts the engine at lights or slow traffic and then fires up as the driver moves off

# Start/Stop but it's all go with Volvo's eco saloon

## ROAD TEST VOLVO S40 DRIVE

BY STEVE LOADER

### STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

aerodynamics and tweaked powertrains and Volvo says it has even reviewed and cut energy used in production and recycling of its cars.

For an extra £250 on the S40 saloon line-up you can also specify the Swedes' Start/Stop system, which cuts the engine at the lights or when making slow progress in traffic and then smoothly fires it up again as the driver makes to move off – no thought is required.

Official figures show the system can boost average fuel use by as much as 10mpg above the standard DRIVE equivalent, which already delivers an impressive 62.8; the marque does not now bother with a 'standard trim' 1.6 diesel, which is a) as things should be now and b) stops motoring hacks highlighting how much a 'greener' model costs compared with a standard car. Start/Stop also knocks emissions back from 119g/km of CO2 to 104.

Rather than a hair shirt option, the DRIVE is a highly flexible family car and a driving pleasure too, despite revisions to the 108bhp diesel/six-speed gearbox powertrain and low rolling resistance tyres.

It even looks good, with Volvo's now distinctive scalloped rear wings and some smoothed alloys that further aid aerodynamics.



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## The new Superb Estate. Bigger. Better. Happier.

With a class leading 1,865 litres of boot space, colour touch screen satellite navigation, blue-tooth, and full leather upholstery as standard\*, no wonder it was voted Top Gear's Luxury Car of the Year 2009. Starting from £17,715 RRP.

What Car? magazine has given the new Superb Estate an excellent write-up in its first review, calling the car "big, comfortable, plush and fine value".

The magazine was particularly impressed by the value-for-money offered by the Superb Estate, saying it's, "cracking value and undercuts the equivalent Mondeo Estate by thousands."



### Used Car Section

**Skoda Octavia 2.0 T FSI vRS 5-Dr Hatchback Mar 2006**

Black Metallic 43,200 miles \* Manual Petrol £9,795

**Skoda Fabia 2 1.4 TDI PD (80 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback**

Finished in Satin Grey Metallic with a Grey Cloth interior, 25,300 miles. £8,795

**Skoda Fabia 2 1.4 TDI PD (80 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback Jan 2008**

Beige Metallic 24,700 miles \* Manual Diesel £7,995

**Skoda Fabia 1.4 16V Ambiente (75 HP) 5-Dr Estate Feb 2007**

Brilliant Silver Metallic 22,473 miles \* Automatic Petrol £7,495

**Skoda Fabia 1 1.2 HTP 6V (60 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback Dec 2007**

Brilliant Silver Metallic 11,572 miles \* Manual Petrol £6,995

**Skoda Fabia 1.4 Elegance (100 HP) 5-Dr Estate**

Finished in Grey Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 41,628 miles. £6,795

**Skoda Fabia 1 1.2 HTP 6V (60 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback Dec 2007**

Beige Metallic 25,400 miles \* Manual Petrol £6,795

**Skoda Fabia 1.4 16V Comfort (75 HP) 5-Dr Estate Feb 2004**

Graphite Grey Metallic 48,500 miles \* Automatic Petrol £4,995

**Skoda Fabia 1.4 Classic 5-Dr Estate**

Finished in Red with a Black Cloth interior, 80,100 miles. £3,295

**Skoda Octavia 1.4 Classic 5-Dr Hatchback**

Finished in Silver Metallic with a Grey Cloth interior, 79,450 miles. £2,995

**Other Makes**
**BMW 1 Series 1.6 116i ES 5-Dr Hatchback**

Finished in Jet Black with a Black Cloth interior, 40,550 miles. £9,795

**SEAT Toledo 1.9 TDI PD Stylance 5-Door Hatchback Sep 2006**

Nayara Blue Metallic 20,695 miles \* Manual Diesel £8,495

**Vauxhall Astra 1.6 Club 16v 5-Door Hatchback Dec 2006**

Silver Lightning Metallic 33,364 miles \* Manual Petrol £6,995

**Vauxhall Astra 1.8 16v Design 5-Door Estate Jan 2005**

Metro Blue Metallic 29,700 miles \* Automatic Petrol £6,495

**SEAT Alhambra 1.9 TDI PD SE (130 BHP) 5-Door MPV Nov 2003**

Pearl Blue Metallic 92,500 miles \* Manual Diesel £6,295

**SEAT Ibiza 1.2 12v Reference Sport 3-Door Hatchback Apr 2007**

Black Magic Metallic 40,055 miles \* Manual Petrol £6,295

**Vauxhall Zafira 2.0 DTi 16v Design 5-Door MPV**

Finished in Moonland Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 38,900 miles. £5,495

**Vauxhall Astra 1.8 Life 16v 5-Door Hatchback Jan 2005**

Metro Blue Metallic 67,500 miles \* Automatic Petrol £4,995

**Citroen C3 Pluriel 1.6 2-Door Cabriolet Jan 2004**

Artic Steel Metallic 86,467 miles \* Manual Petrol £4,495

**Fiat Multipla 1.6 100 16v ELX 5-Door MPV**

Finished in Antarctic Blue Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 68,900 miles. £4,995

**Vauxhall Agila 1.0 Expression 5-Door Hatchback Aug 2006**

Royal Blue Metallic 17,376 miles \* Manual Petrol £4,295

**Suzuki Wagon R 1.3 GL 75 BHP 5-Door Hatchback Mar 2002**

Bright Red 39,350 miles \* Manual Petrol £3,995

**Ford Ka 1.3 3-Door Hatchback**

Finished in Colorado Red with a Black Cloth interior, 56,500 miles. £3,995

**Renault Scenic 1.6 Expression + 5-Dr Hatchback Apr 2001**

Norse Grey Metallic 71,500 miles \* Automatic Petrol £2,795

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Offer available on all Fabia and Octavia models ordered before 31st March 2010 at participating retailers only. Reduction applied to the RRP including factory fitted optional extras and is equivalent of the VAT applicable at the time. VAT is applicable and will be shown on the customer's invoice. †Savings shown relate to RRP's of the Fabia Scout 1.9 TDI PD 105bhp and the Octavia L&K estate 2.0 TDI PD 140bhp DSG. Excludes the channel islands. Prices are accurate at time of print. Offer is not available in conjunction with the Government's scrappage scheme. Not available in conjunction with any other offer. Terms & Conditions apply. Offer is subject to availability and may be varied or withdrawn at any time. At participating retailers only. Please see you local retailer for full terms and conditions. Prices are accurate at time of print. Model shown Superb Estate Elegance 2.0 TDI CR 140bhp 6spd DPf at £24,280 RRP inc optional metallic paint at £410 RRP. Tinted windows not to UK specification. \*Specification shown is standard on Elegance and optional on SE models only.







# Westbrook Cars Super Deals

W 00	<b>HONDA HRV 4WD 1.6</b> automatic 5 door estate finished in bronze, central locking, electric windows, CD stereo player, controls on steering wheel, electric mirrors, power assisted steering, twin airbags, black/blue cloth upholstery, Honda service history, alloy wheels, parcel shelf ..... <b>£3195.00</b>
X 00	<b>VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.7 DTI ESTATE</b> finished in silver, remote central locking, electric windows, remote mirrors, power assisted steering, twin airbags, Pioneer CD stereo with controls on steering wheel, air con, lots of service history, black cloth upholstery, rolled top parcel shelf, factory fitted roof rails ..... <b>£1695.00</b>
X 01	<b>NISSAN 1.0 MICRA S 3</b> door hatchback finished in blueish mauve, remote mirrors, power assisted steering, drivers airbag, 5 speed gear box, stereo, lots of Nissan service history, dark/light grey upholstery, parcel shelf ..... <b>£1995.00</b>
Y 01	<b>PEUGEOT 106 1.2 INDEPENDENCE 3</b> door hatchback finished in green, remote mirrors, stereo, drivers airbag 5 speed gear box, black/green upholstery, parcel shelf ..... <b>£1895.00</b>
P 97	<b>PEUGEOT 306 1.4 LX 5</b> door hatchback finished in blue, remote central locking, remote mirrors, electric windows, stereo, controls on steering wheel, drivers airbag, 5 speed gear box, parcel shelf, cloth upholstery, service history ..... <b>£1495.00</b>
Y 01	<b>VOLKSWAGEN POLO 1.4 S 3</b> door hatchback finished in blue, electric windows, electric mirrors, twin airbags, power assisted steering, 5 speed gear box, Kenwood CD stereo system, service history, black cloth upholstery, parcel shelf ..... <b>£2995.00</b>
V 00	<b>VOLKSWAGEN GOLF 1.4 S 3</b> door hatchback finished in green, electric windows, electric mirrors, electric sunroof, twin airbags, stereo, power assisted steering, cream cloth upholstery, full Volkswagen service history, alloy wheels, parcel shelf, front fog lamps ..... <b>£2995.00</b>
Y 01	<b>CHRYSLER 2.0 PT CRUISER LTD</b> automatic finished in silver, remote central locking, electric mirrors, twin airbags, power assisted steering, CD stereo, cruise control, leather/suede interior, air con, alloy wheels, parcel shelf, front fog lamps ..... <b>£2995.00</b>
X 00	<b>RENAULT MEGANE 1.6 SCENIC RT 16V 5</b> door hatchback finished in silver, remote central locking, electric mirrors, electric windows, electric twin sun roofs, twin airbags, power assisted steering, stereo with controls on steering wheel, grey cloth upholstery, rear picnic tables, parcel shelf ..... <b>£2495.00</b>
04 04	<b>PEUGEOT 206 1.4 FEVER 3</b> door hatchback finished in metallic black, remote central locking, electric windows, remote mirrors, twin airbags, power assisted steering, Kenwood CD stereo system, controls on steering wheel, black/orange cloth upholstery, 02 racing alloy wheels, back roof spoiler, front fog lamps ..... <b>£3495.00</b>
Y 01	<b>ROVER 45 IMPRESSION 1.4 S 5</b> door hatchback finished in red, remote central locking, electric mirrors, electric windows, drivers airbag, 5 speed gearbox, stereo, controls on steering wheel, power assisted steering, walnut dash, black upholstery, service history, alloy wheels, front fog lamps ..... <b>£1995.00</b>
T 99	<b>VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 LS 8V 5</b> door hatchback finished in green, remote central locking, remote mirrors, electric windows, twin airbags, stereo controls on steering wheel, 5 speed gearbox, power assisted steering, sunroof, black cloth upholstery, full Vauxhall service history, parcel shelf ..... <b>£2295.00</b>
Y 01	<b>VOLKSWAGEN LUPO 1.0 E 3</b> door hatchback finished in black, remote mirrors, twin airbags, stereo, red/black cloth upholstery, 5 speed gearbox, power assisted steering, parcel shelf ..... <b>£2495.00</b>
Y 01	<b>PEUGEOT 106 1.2 INDEPENDENCE 3</b> door hatchback finished in silver, remote mirrors, drivers airbag, stereo, 5 speed gearbox, black cloth upholstery, parcel shelf ..... <b>£1995.00</b>
T 99	<b>FORD FIESTA 1.4 ZETEC 3</b> door hatchback finished in silver, remote central locking, remote mirrors, drivers airbag, stereo, 5 speed gearbox, black/grey cloth upholstery, power assisted steering, front and rear fog lamps, alloy wheels, parcel shelf, loads of service history ... <b>£1895.00</b>
T 99	<b>VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 LS 8V</b> automatic estate finished in blue, remote central locking, remote mirrors, electric windows, sun roof, drivers airbag, stereo, power assisted steering, blue/black cloth upholstery, rolled top parcel shelf, factory fitted roof rails, service history ... <b>£1895.00</b>
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W 00	<b>FORD FOCUS 1.8 GHIA TD 5</b> door hatchback finished in blue, remote central locking, electric mirrors, electric windows, drivers airbag, walnut dash, black cloth upholstery, air con, stereo, power assisted steering, alloy wheels, front fog lamps, parcel shelf ..... <b>£2895.00</b>
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<b>08 58 Chrysler 300C 3.0 V6 CRD Saloon</b> Bright Silver Black Leather Cruise Driver/Passenger Electric Heated Seats Rear Parking Aid My-Gig entertainment U-Connect GPS CD Climate Alloys 7100 miles ..... <b>£18,995</b>
<b>09 59 Chrysler 300C 3.0 V6 CRD SRT Design Saloon</b> Brilliant Black Crystal Black Leather Cruise Driver/Passenger Electric Heated Seats Full Screen Sat Nav Rear Parking Aid My-Gig Entertainment CD/MP3/DVD Climate Alloys 4000 miles ..... <b>£24,995</b>

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<b>07 57 Jeep Commander 3.0 V6 CRD Limited</b> Bright Silver Clearcoat Beige Leather Cruise Driver/Passenger Electric Heated Seats Full Screen Sat Nav Front/Rear Parking Aid 6 CD DVD Command-View With Dual Skylights Sunroof Climate Alloys 33300 miles ..... <b>£17,995</b>
<b>07 07 Jeep Grand Cherokee 3.0 CRD Overland</b> Brilliant Black Crystal Medium Slate Grey Part Leather Cruise Driver/Passenger Electric Heated Seats Sat Nav Front/Rear Parking Aid CD Climate Alloys 22700 miles ..... <b>£18,995</b>
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## General Car Auction for cars over £1000

**Starts at 3.00pm**

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## Four Wheel Drive & Diesel Cars

**Starts at 11.00am**

**ENTRIES ARE NOW BEING INVITED**

Approximately 80 ~ 100 Four Wheel Drive & Diesel vehicles



## Notes for all of our Auctions

Although entries are accepted up to 7.00pm on Sunday 2nd May, we would strongly advise you, where possible, to book your vehicles in as early as possible, either by phone, email, or our new instant pre-booking service available on the internet to get maximum coverage.

Our website has over 1000 visits each day, and as well as a description of your vehicle, we can now include photographs.

To book your vehicle in instantly on the internet, simply visit our website at [www.hobbsparker.co.uk](http://www.hobbsparker.co.uk) and click on "Car Auctions", then click on "Add Vehicle to Sale List".

As well as our usual opening times, we shall be open from 3.00pm to 7.00pm Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd May to take entries.

**Regrettably no entries will be accepted on the sale day. All start times are approximate and the auction will run continuously.**

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## PROPERTY NEWS

### Lenders ready to be flexible as confidence rises

A GREATER amount of confidence in the property market is leading to increased flexibility among mortgage lenders, according to analysts.

First-time buyers could find higher loan-to-values being offered, said Ben Wilkie, editor of What Mortgage.

Bigger banks are likely to be the ones opening up their finances, he suggested, as they want to get back into the property market to boost their profile.

"It really should help first-time buyers because even to get a ten per cent deposit is hard enough – and to get any higher than that is outrageous for many people," he said.

For first-time buyers really struggling to save money, the expert predicted that a 95 per cent loan-to-value mortgage could be on offer "fairly soon".

Figures from Moneyfacts have revealed that 1,798 mortgage deals were on offer at the beginning of March requiring deposits of up to 40 per cent, up more than six per cent on the previous month.

### Insurance vital for self-builders

PROFESSIONAL indemnity insurance is vital for those dealing with architects as it protects home-owners from the costs incurred from setting right any mistakes, experts say.

Julian Owen, chairman of the Association of Self Build Architects, said that it was rare for things to go seriously awry, but when they did the costs could be significant.

He said: "It is not like you can put that down to experience – this is your house we are talking about, so you have got to have that security."

Mr Owen advised home-owners to agree a set budget with the architect prior to the work beginning, so that any later disputes were avoided.

If this early agreement is made, then it is up to the architect to stick to budget or call the homeowner when it is being exceeded.

ASBA is Britain's biggest network of practising architects specialising in the design of individual houses, refurbishments and extensions.



# Stamp duty cut brings headache for solicitors

■ BY NICK AMES

FIRST-time buyers have received a leg up on to the property ladder for the next two years as the stamp-duty threshold has been increased from £125,000 to £250,000.

Chancellor Alistair Darling said that the decision to raise the threshold for first-time buyers would result in nine in ten not paying any stamp duty.

He added that the increased allowance was to be funded by an increased stamp-duty level to five per cent from four per cent on properties worth more than £1 million.

The stamp-duty holiday is only available to first-time buyers.

Experts say this may cause difficulties for conveyance solicitors responsible for levying the tax.

There is expected to be an element of self-declaration, which will then have to be verified by checking the Land Registry.

Mike Warburton, of accountants Grant Thornton, said: "This is the first time that a tax has been based on personal circumstances of a first-time buyer rather than the value of the property."

"This will create a minefield for solicitors who will have to check if the house-buyers have bought property before."

If a property is being bought by more than

one individual, all of the buyers have to be first-time buyers to qualify for the stamp-duty holiday.

"The move will undoubtedly help many people achieve home-ownership and we need only look at the recent extension to £175,000 for proof of this."

"Of course, the devil is in the detail and policing this may prove to be a tricky task," said Drew Wotherspoon, of mortgage-broker John Charcol.

The news will boost the market as analysts say some UK residents now reach their 30s before they can afford to get on the ladder.

The average person struggles to find the required deposit, which can now hit 25 per cent of the house value, said Jane Marr, director at the Little House Company.

"I can foresee the situation where people in their 20s do not consider home-ownership and that it will only become a realistic goal once in your 30s as your pay increases and you have had longer to save," she said.

Figures from Rightmove revealed that the proportion of first-time buyers looking to purchase fell to 25.8 per cent, the second successive quarterly fall.

In a healthy housing market, this figure would be expected to be about 40 per cent.

The number of first-time buyers has slumped in recent years.

In 1999, more than 590,000 people took their first step on to the property ladder, but by the peak of the market in 2007, the figure had fallen to 357,000. Last year, it was just 198,000.



BUDGET: Chancellor Alistair Darling cut stamp duty

## How to cash in while the sun's shining

THERE are no good arguments against having solar panels installed in the home, according to one expert.

Environmental homes expert Tim Pullen says that solar panels work and they do not need much attention from the home-owner for some 25 years of use.

He said that the first step home-owners should take to make their homes more environmentally friendly was to look at the walls of the property, as this is where 35 per cent of heat was lost.

Mr Pullen reckons that having cavity-wall insulation is a good idea if the homeowner has a decent cavity but if they do not then it is not such a positive step.

He added that the Government's planned introduction of feed-in tariffs was likely to encourage homeowners to think about the benefits of adopting the technology.

The scheme could see homes with solar panels being rewarded with up to £900 and an annual reduction of £140 on electricity bills, according to the Department of Energy and Climate Change.



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### Dover £169,950

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### Lydd on Sea £285,000

Four bedroom detached house. Lounge, dining room & kitchen. Conservatory. Ensuite shower to master, bathroom. Garage & off road parking for several cars.

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### Dover £135,000

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### Hawkinge £129,995

Two bed semi detached home. Kitchen/diner & bathroom. Garage, garden. C/ heating, d/glazing and would benefit from some modernisation.

Folkestone Office

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### Whitfield £180,000

2 bedroom detached house, requires modernisation. Driveway provides off street parking for several vehicles, garage. Entrance porch, kitchen, through lounge, first floor landing, two bedrooms and bathroom.

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### Alkham £439,950

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### Greatstone £250,000

Upside down house. Lounge, three bedrooms, bathroom, cloakroom & Kitchen Garage & off road parking.

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### Dover £135,000

Three bedroom family in the popular residential area of Elms Vale. The property offers its new owners a bay fronted lounge with opening to the separate dining room, modern fitted kitchen with shower room off and gardens both front and rear.

Kearsney Office

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### Lyminge £194,995

Three bed semi detached home. has Fitted kitchen, lounge, dining room cloakroom and fitted bathroom. There is the added benefit of a garage, off street parking, electric storage heaters front and rear gardens.

Folkestone Office

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### St. Marys Bay £285,000

Detached family house. Lounge/diner, kitchen, utility area, study, downstairs WC, three bedrooms, bathroom. Garage & off road parking.

New Romney

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## WHITFIELD,

**Dover 01304 201806**

**£199,950**

We are very pleased to introduce to the market this very well presented 3 bedroom detached family home. The property has been updated recently and has a very modern interior.

The property is set out over two floors and comprises a spacious 'L' shaped lounge/diner and a modern kitchen to the ground floor. To the first floor there are two double bedrooms, a substantial single bedroom and family shower room.

The property also boasts a lawned front garden, a very light and airy conservatory overlooking the patio garden to the rear. There is rear access to the property and a garage en bloc with off road parking available.

We would recommend internal viewing to fully appreciate what this property has to offer.



## FOLKESTONE,

**Folkestone 01303 259211**

**£215,000**

Offered for sale with no chain this 3 bedroom family home is situated in an elevated position in a cul-de-sac in the popular Enbrook area of Sandgate. The property is arranged over three floors with the ground floor being the entrance hall with storage space. The lower ground floor has a lounge diner with patio doors out to a balcony, a modern kitchen and a shower room. The first floor has three bedrooms and a family bathroom. The location is less than a mile from Folkestone West station with its high speed rail link to London. Close by there are well regarded primary and secondary schools and local shops are within easy distance.

Outside there is extensive storage under the house, a garage and additional off road parking. The garden comprises a lawned area and patio.

We strongly advise and early viewing.

**FAST START** - The seller of this property has opted for our **FAST START** package, making the moving timescale much shorter for you. Call for more details.



## DOVER,

**Dover 01304 201806**

**£129,950**

**AN EXCELLENT INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY!!!** The property comprises of three one bedroom flats and a self contained one bedroom flat

to the basement floor. The basement flat has access to the rear garden and comprises a lounge with kitchenette area, double bedroom with bay window



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## FOLKESTONE,

**Folkestone 01303 259211**

**£149,950**

Offered for sale with no forward chain this three bedroom mid terrace property. To the ground floor of this bay fronted home is a lounge, open through

to dining area and kitchen. On the first floor there is the bathroom and three bedrooms. The property benefits from double glazing and central heating.



## WHITFIELD,

**Dover 01304 201806**

**£225,000**

This very well presented and spacious detached house needs to be viewed to appreciate the room it offers. The property is set in the popular Newlands

area of Whitfield with easy access to the A2 leading to London and Canterbury and into Dover town itself. It is also close to local amenities.



## FOLKESTONE,

**Folkestone 01303 259211**

**£229,950**

Detached house with accommodation comprising lounge with double doors out to the garden, an 18'10 dining room, a kitchen breakfast room and a

downstairs cloakroom. Upstairs there are four double bedrooms and a family bathroom. To the rear there is an enclosed and lawned garden.



## DOVER,

**Dover 01304 201806**

**£149,950**

**A FANTASTIC INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY!!!** Offered chain free, this terrace property comprises three one bedroom flats on the ground.



## DOVER,

**Dover 01304 201806**

**ASKING PRICE £180,000**

An excellent investment opportunity! This property is situated in a central part of town close by to the bus and train stations.



**FOLKESTONE, Folkestone 01303 259211**

**£119,995**

Viewing is recommended to appreciate this modern top floor flat comprising: entrance hall, fitted kitchen, lounge, two bedrooms and bathroom/WC.



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Two bedroom well presented mid terrace home situated in the sought after Cheriton Area of Folkestone. Accommodation entrance hall, lounge/dining room.



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WEST END £184,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03196

- 3 bedroom apartment
- Sea views
- No onward chain



FOLKESTONE £229,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03122

- 3 bed semi detached bungalow
- Private rear garden
- Single garage



FOLKESTONE OFFERS OVER £125,000

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03134

- 3 bed terraced
- 2 reception rooms
- Large garden and no chain



CHERITON £159,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03027

- 3 bedroom mid terraced
- Lounge/Diner
- DG and GCH



CHERITON OIEO £204,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03103

- Modern 4 bedroom family home
- Bathroom & Shower room
- Potential 5th bed parking



FOLKESTONE £130,000

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03208

- 3 bedroom mid terrace
- No onward chain
- Must be viewed



FOLKESTONE £149,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03195

- 3 bedroom terrace
- Views over park
- Good size garden



GOLDEN VALLEY £177,500

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03157

- 3 bed end of terrace
- Off road parking and garage
- No chain



DOVER £144,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03069

- 4 bedroom terrace
- GFCH & DG
- Private rear garden



CHERITON £132,500

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03215

- 3 bedroom terrace
- In need of TLC
- No onward chain



SANDGATE £499,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03206

- 4 bedroom detached house
- Superb contemporary design
- Sea views and no chain



WHITFIELD £177,500

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03167

- 3 bedroom semi
- Garage and conservatory
- No chain



FOLKESTONE £125,000

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03180

- 3 bed terraced house
- GFCH/DG
- Good investment/ FTB



FOLKESTONE £190,000

FOLKESTONE HFP03172

- 4 bed terraced house
- 19 foot kitchen/diner
- Fully DG/GCH



FOLKESTONE £129,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03197

- 2 bedroom end terrace
- Good sized rear garden
- Modern fitted bathroom



CHERITON £174,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03190

- 3 bedroom mid terrace
- Good size rear garden
- No chain



FOLKESTONE £359,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03092

- 8 bedroom semi detached
- 5 bathrooms
- No chain



CHERITON £199,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03010

- 3 bed detached
- Garage and driveway
- Private rear garden



FOLKESTONE £82,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03071

- One bedroom first floor flat
- Large lounge
- Built-in wardrobes



CHERITON £179,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02098

- 3 bedroom flat
- Large rooms
- New kitchen and bathroom



FOLKESTONE £109,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03216

- 1 bed apartment
- Good location
- Large living area



DOVER £124,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03199

- 2 double bedrooms
- Approx 70FT garden
- No onward chain



WEST END £59,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03204

- Studio flat
- Sea views
- No chain



DOVER £79,995

FOLKESTONE HFP03192

- 2 bed maisonette
- Private small front garden
- In need of refurbishment

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**DOVER**  
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FOLKESTONE £184,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03191

- 3 bed semi-detached
- In need of modernisation
- No onward chain



FOLKESTONE £359,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03126

- 3 bedroom detached
- Approx 1.0 acre of land
- No chain/Quick sale required due to moving abroad



HAWKINGE £220,000

FOLKESTONE HFP03186

- 4 bed semi-detached
- Garage
- Popular village location



FOLKESTONE £89,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03088

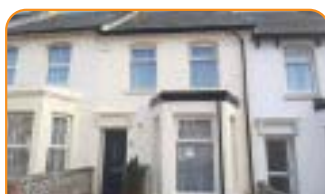
- One bedroom flat
- Private rear garden
- Close to the town centre



FOLKESTONE £141,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03159

- 3 bedroom terraced house
- Good size rear garden
- Suberb condition



FOLKESTONE £124,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03144

- 2 bedroom terraced
- Good sized rear garden
- Modern fitted bathroom suite



WEST END £159,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03142

- 3 bedroom apartment
- Sought after location
- Recent extended lease



CHERITON £149,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03222

- 3 bedroom end terrace
- Enclosed rear garden
- No onward chain



FOLKESTONE £159,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03212

- 4 bedroom terraced house
- Currently split into two flats
- One flat is currently rented



DOVER £299,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03028

- Investment opportunity
- No chain
- 5 flats



SANDGATE £195,000

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03018

- 2 bedrooms
- Sea views and balcony
- No chain

## free valuations

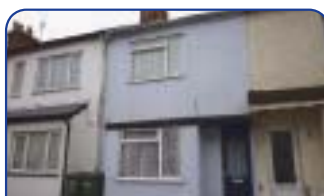
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DOVER £124,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03182

- 2 bed end of terrace
- Beautifully renovated
- No onward chain



FOLKESTONE £145,000

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03217

- 3 bed terraced house
- Kitchen/diner
- GFCH/DG



FOLKESTONE £235,000

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03123

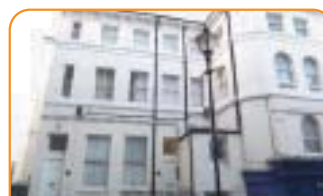
- 3 bedroom first floor apartment
- Lounge/Diner
- Shower room and bathroom



EASTCLIFF £60,000

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03070

- FTB or investment
- Studio flat
- No chain



FOLKESTONE £70,000

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03148

- 1 bedroom apartment
- Central location
- No onward chain



FOLKESTONE £154,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02440

- Spacious Maisonette, no chain
- 2 Bedrooms, extended lounge
- Split level, own garden



WEST END £128,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03193

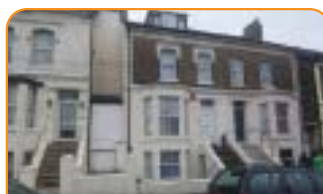
- 2 bedroom apartment
- Superb condition
- 125 year lease and no chain



DOVER £79,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02834

- One Bedroom
- Ground Floor with Parking
- No Chain



DOVER £189,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02915

- 3 X apartments
- Currently rented @ £1360/pcm
- No chain



FOLKESTONE £149,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03132

- 4 bedroom terrace
- Double fronted
- GFCH/DG

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We are seeking to appoint a Learning Support Assistant, to support students in English.

The successful candidate will be energetic, a champion of children with an interest in English and experience of working with students with additional educational needs.

The ability to work well under pressure is essential as are excellent organisational, interpersonal and communication skills.

Spires Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and expect all staff to share this commitment. The successful applicant will be subject to appropriate child protection screening including checks with previous employers and the Criminal Records Bureau.

Further details and an application form are available on our website [www.spiresacademy.com](http://www.spiresacademy.com). Alternatively contact Clare Smith on 0800 028 1787 or by email on [clare.smithkent@hays.com](mailto:clare.smithkent@hays.com) to request an application pack.

Closing date: 21st April 2010



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Salary negotiable depending on experience.

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Permanent position

Initially £22-£25k + profit share ote 30k+

## Vehicle Technician

Fully skilled with good knowledge of current vehicles, you must be able to work efficiently and effectively as part of our small team.

MOT tester status would be an advantage.

Permanent position

Initially £18-£21k + profit share ote £26k+

Both successful candidates have the opportunity to advance within the company  
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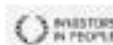


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## RMN Unit Manager



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Salary negotiable depending on experience with the opportunity for promotion within the company.

The successful applicant must have a valid NMC PIN.

For more information please contact  
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Email [kate@abbeyhealthcare.org.uk](mailto:kate@abbeyhealthcare.org.uk)



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The main role is to supervise and provide instruction to students in the absence of subject teachers for lessons provided. The Classroom Manager will also be responsible for carrying out other tasks that are related to the learning environment.

Offer of appointment is subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure. This school is committed to recruiting with care and safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

For an application form please contact:  
Miss S Spratley, Pent Valley Technology College, Surrenden Road,  
Folkestone, Kent. CT19 4ED.

Email: samantha.spratley@pent-valley.kent.sch.uk  
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**Interviews:** To be confirmed



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With specific responsibility for preparing the statutory accounts for subsidiary companies you will assist with the production of the group statutory accounts and hence have a sound knowledge of Accounting Standards. Good verbal and written communication skills are essential.

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Working within the Accounts Department, you will control all property and other capital accounting transactions, manage day to day cash flow and ensure correct accounting of interest and other loan payments. You will be responsible for producing monthly cash flow forecast reports and other key management information quickly and accurately to enable effective management decision making.

You will take a proactive part in the financial appraisal of new business including costs modelling for tenders, assessing and reporting on the impact on the budget and financial business plan. Good verbal and written communication skills are essential, as you will need to communicate with internal and external staff members and other agencies.

**mcch** also have a **Finance Officer** role based in Maidstone at £16,607, if you require further information on the post please contact us. **Ref: 699/E**

### How to apply.....

For an application form and job description email [jobs@mcch.co.uk](mailto:jobs@mcch.co.uk) or apply on line at [www.mcch.co.uk](http://www.mcch.co.uk) alternatively call our recruitment line on **0845 600 1552**. Please quote ref.  
We also have large type/Braille versions available on request. All appointments are subject to a Criminal Records Disclosure.



### DOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK CORE STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT ADOPTION STATEMENT MARCH 2010 NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF THE CORE STRATEGY

This Adoption statement has been prepared in accordance with Regulation 24 (2) and Regulation 36 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004 and subsequent amendments in 2008 and 2009 and gives notice that Dover District Council has formally adopted its Core Strategy on the 24th February 2010.

The Core Strategy forms part of the Dover Local Development Framework (LDF), which will replace, in part, the Dover District Local Plan (2002). The Core Strategy is the principal document of the LDF and has the role of setting the strategic vision and guiding principles for development in the District for the period to 2026. The Core Strategy is the first Local Development Document (LDD) to be adopted by the Council and all subsequent LDDs must be consistent with it.

An independent Planning Inspector conducted a Public Examination of the Core Strategy in October 2009. The Inspector's Report was published on 21st January 2010 and can be viewed at the locations set out below and on the Council's website [www.dover.gov.uk/forward\\_planning.aspx](http://www.dover.gov.uk/forward_planning.aspx). The adopted Core Strategy incorporates the binding recommendations of the Inspector.

Any person aggrieved by the adoption of the Core Strategy may make an application to the High Court under Section 113 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 on the grounds that:

- (a) the document is not within the appropriate power;
- (b) a procedural requirement has not been complied with.

An application must be made promptly, and in any event, no later than the end of the period of six weeks of the date of adoption of this Core Strategy.

The adopted Core Strategy DPD, this Adoption Statement, and the Sustainability Appraisal Report (and other related DPD documents) are available for public inspection free of charge at the main Council Offices, Area Offices and Libraries in the District during their normal working hours.

If you require any further information on the Core Strategy or any other aspect of the Local Development Framework, please contact the Forward Planning Team on 01304 872477. Alternatively please email the Team at [forwardplanning@dover.gov.uk](mailto:forwardplanning@dover.gov.uk) or write to The Forward Planning Team, Dover District Council, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover, Kent, CT16 3PJ.

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# Council due to decide on Prince's vision for Old Clubhouse

Picture: KEVIN MURRAY



SCENE SETTER: Prince's Golf Club will host part of final qualifying for The Open

PLANS to refurbish the Old Clubhouse at Prince's Golf Club into accommodation for golfers could move a step forward this week.

The existing building suffered extensive fire damage two years ago with proposals aimed at renovating and extending the structure.

Following an extensive process since the original application was received in March 2009, Dover council's planning committee is due to discuss the plans on Thursday.

If approved it would be trans-

## GOLF

formed into 14 self-catering flats for visiting golfers, plus other facilities including a gym, bar and lounge.

The facility would form part of the club's ongoing improvement of its 27-hole course and once finished could help Prince's attract larger events on a regular basis.

A former host of The Open Championship, the Sandwich club is already due to host several impor-

tant tournaments over the next three years.

This summer it will stage the best young players in the country as they battle for the McGregor Trophy - the English under-16 boys' amateur championship.

Next year will see the course host part of local final qualifying for The Open ahead of the main tournament at neighbouring Royal St George's, while in 2013, it co-hosts the Amateur Championship with Deal's Royal Cinque Ports.

## GOLF



HEARTACHE: Karen Stupples's attempt on a second major faded during a poor last round in California

## Major Stupples disappointment

KAREN Stupples threw away the chance to lift the second major of her career following a disastrous final round at the Kraft Nabisco in California.

The 36-year-old golfer went in to the final round of the first major of the season with a one-shot lead ahead of double major winner Yani Tseng.

However, a six-over-par final round from Stupples gifted the Tseng the tournament win and left the Deal golfer in tied fifth.

The tournament, held in Rancho Mirage, California was only Stupples' second of the year and the former British Open winner started the event well, carding a three-under-par round of 69. The well-judged opening round saw her end the first day in tied third, just two shots behind leader Norwegian Suzann Pettersen.

Another three-under-par 69 followed on day two, which saw her tournament hopes build as she moved into tied second spot, a shot behind new leader Song-Hee Kim.

She continued to impress in the third round when she took the outright lead after a four-under-par 68. The round could have been even better, but bogeys at the seventh and 11th holes cost her the chance to build a commanding lead.

With hopes of a second career major growing, Stupples was unable to deliver in the crucial final round. A round littered with errors, including three double bogeys, saw her title hopes fade and a six-over-par round of 78 was only enough to see her finish tied fifth.

**PLEASE SEND YOUR SPORTS STORIES TO SPORTS EDITOR GLENN PEARSON AT glenn.pearson@kosmedia.co.uk**



PLAY-OFF BOUND: Adam Birchall, left, celebrates with his team-mates after netting the opener on Saturday, while Joe Tabiri, right, earned Dover all three points with his first goal



Picture: SIMON HARRIS

# Hess egg-static as Dover pick up maximum points

A NICKY Southall strike earned Dover Athletic their seventh consecutive win as the Whites edged past Welling United on Bank Holiday Monday.

Andy Hessenthaler's side were involved in a tight Kent derby at Park View Road, with chances few and far between. However, a move early in the second-half, started by James Rogers, sealed the three points. Rogers' cross found winger Southall, who fired into the top corner from close range.

The victory is the latest in an impressive run which has propelled the Whites from mid-table to second place in Blue Square South. Dover are two points clear of third-placed Chelmsford and have a nine-point cushion within the play-offs.

Dover had moved into second position in the league on Saturday after beating Eastleigh 2-1 to record their sixth consecutive win.

The Whites made a slow start to the game

## FOOTBALL

■ BY TOM HOWARD

### Welling United 0

### Dover Athletic 1

Southall 55

before opening the scoring on 26 minutes through top-scorer Adam Birchall.

The former Arsenal forward latched onto a long ball from Jon Wallis and he rounded goalkeeper Jason Matthews before side-footing home to give Dover the lead.

Eastleigh responded well with Tony Taggart and Richard Gillespie forcing goalkeeper Ross Flitney into two smart saves.

The Hampshire side dominated large parts of the second-half before they equalised through

Tom Jordan's header just after the hour.

However, Dover fought back and with ten minutes remaining, Joe Tabiri's deflected shot from 18 yards flew into the net to secure the three points.

With Dover already looking towards the play-offs, the club have been boosted by the announcement that Barnet duo Daniel Leach and Joe Tabiri will be eligible for the crucial play-off games.

Australian centre-half Leach joined the club in February and has featured heavily in the side, while Tabiri has played in the last seven games. Hessenthaler admitted he would love to sign the pair for next season.

He said: "They are the type of players we would love to bring to this football club. They are good proven players and they have been key for us. We can dream about signing them.

"You never know [Barnet manager] Ian Hendon is a good friend of mine, but I will doubt it very much if we could sign them permanently."



# Invicta's patience pays off against determined Chats

## FOOTBALL

BY DAVID PRITCHARD

### Folkestone Invicta 2

Chappell 48, J Everitt 80

### Chatham 0

FOLKESTONE Invicta stayed in the hunt for the Ryman South title as second-half goals from Frankie Chappell and James Everitt saw off a dogged Chatham Town on Easter Monday.

Everitt's strike helped make amends for a first-half penalty miss, which at one stage looked like it could be costly. Chatham's performance belied their struggles at the bottom of the form table, but they could not take their chances to make the hosts uncomfortable.

With Liam Dickson suspended and Darren Smith unavailable, Seasiders boss Neil Cugley was forced to make two changes. Roy Guiver came in at centre-back, while Simon Austin came in to partner Brendon Cass in a forward line which began the season at Chatham.

Invicta were well rested after their game at Walton & Hersham on Saturday was postponed. They started as hot favourites against a desperately out of form Chatham side, but the visitors worked hard to deny Folkestone space.

The tactic worked well and apart from an Everitt shot which drifted wide after 70 seconds, the hosts struggled to retain possession and create chances.

Chatham came into the game without a goal in their last three games, but an untried strike



**HIT AND MISS:** James Everitt made up for missing a penalty by scoring Folkestone's second and decisive goal

partnership of Jack Pallen and Bobby Dixey troubled the best defence in the division. The former should have scored on the half-hour mark, but he headed Ashley Probert's cross over from six yards.

Invicta had scarcely threatened but were given a great chance to break the deadlock when Chris Henry handled in the box

### Folkestone Invicta starting XI



Subs used: Bartrum (Austin 74), Sargeant (Burchell 83)

nine minutes before the break. Everitt, Invicta's top scorer, stepped up and blasted over the crossbar.

The Chats should have taken the lead inside the first minute of the second-half. Pallen was again well positioned, but his close range header was brilliantly blocked by Invicta stopper Jack Delo.

Folkestone punished the wasted chance by taking the lead from Jimmy Jackson's corner three minutes later. Frankie Chappell rose superbly at the back post, powerfully nodding home for his sixth goal of the season.

The goal finally settled the home side down and they began to find space for their more patient approach. They pinned Chatham back but despite some nervy moments among the visitors' defence, Invicta barely tested goalkeeper Dean Ruddy.

The Chats almost snatched an equaliser midway through the half when Ryan Laker's shot from an acute angle beat Delo, but was cleared off the line by Jackson.

The majority of the 314 spectators were beginning to grow restless as Chatham's influence grew, but ten minutes from time Everitt struck with a low shot which Ruddy almost kept out, killing the game off.

Folkestone face another derby against a struggling side on Saturday when they visit Whitstable Town.

## RUGBY



**IN FORM:** Folkestone scored five tries in their win

## Dominant pack gives Stones the platform for convincing display

### Horsham 15 Folkestone 30

FOLKESTONE'S strong finish to the season continued as they produced an accomplished display to beat Horsham on Saturday.

The victory was the Stones' fourth in five games, by some margin their best league sequence of the season.

It saw them leapfrog Horsham into seventh in the London 3 South East table.

The afternoon began badly for the visitors, whose poor start was punished by a neat move along the Horsham backs to score the opening try of the game.

But the lead did not last long and although injuries again weakened Folkestone's line-up, they fought hard and got back into the game when Joe Hull scored his first try for the senior side.

The Stones were in the ascendancy and they soon took the lead.

After winning a Horsham scrum, the ball found its way to John Eustace, who set-up Richard Lama to score. He added the conversion to make it 12-5 to the visitors.

Folkestone's forwards were winning everything and they set up another try, this time for Jack McMurray, to extend the lead.

Horsham pulled a try back in an entertaining spell, but a rapid counter-attack following a turnover allowed Adam Tolman to score Folkestone's fourth try of the half, sending them in 22-10 ahead at the break.

Their fifth score came after winning another Horsham scrum. The ball was worked out to the left wing and Jon Morton dived over.

The conversion was missed, but a penalty from Chris Petley added to the score, before a late consolation try for the hosts.

Folkestone have three league games remaining and will be hoping to maintain their form in the closing weeks of the season.

This Saturday they visit a Hastings & Bexhill side they beat 46-5 on the opening day of the season.

# Mixed results for two Town bosses

## FOOTBALL

### Hythe Town 3 Beckenham Town 1

### Fisher 2 Deal Town 0

STRIKES in the last quarter of an hour from Martin Chandler and Greg Smith gave Hythe Town an Easter Monday victory over Beckenham Town.

After a goalless first-half, the visitors took the lead on the hour mark through Gary Gorman.

The advantage lasted just two minutes, as Steven Ward provided an immediate response for the home side. They went on to dominate the closing stages, scoring twice in three minutes to seal victory.

Chandler put them in front from the penalty spot before substitute Smith slammed home from 20 yards with a shot which went in off the crossbar.

The victory lifted Hythe back into the Kent League's top five. Scott Porter's side still have five games remaining after Saturday's fixture with Sporting Bengal United was postponed due to a waterlogged pitch at Reachfields.

It means another rearranged fixture, but with Bengal not scheduled to play any other games this season, the most likely date would be next Tuesday, but it is yet to be confirmed by the Kent League.

Deal had a mixed Easter weekend. On Monday they were undone by Luke Coleman, who struck at the end of each half to give hosts Fisher a 2-0 victory.



**GOOD AND BAD:** Hythe boss Scott Porter, left, was all smiles after victory, but Derek Hares's Deal side were beaten

Two days earlier, Derek Hares's team had climbed to sixth in the table, their highest position since the opening weeks of the season, courtesy of a 3-1 win at home to Tunbridge Wells.

Andy McMath gave the out of form visitors an 11th-minute lead, but Deal's top scorer Mo



Takaloo levelled on the half-hour mark. The striker then made it 15 goals for the season five minutes after the break.

The contest was in the balance until two minutes from time, when Shaun Brown struck to secure Deal's victory.

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